



## New virtual institute announced

By GISELLE CHANG  
News & Features Editor

Hopkins recently announced the creation of a new Environment, Energy, Sustainability and Health Institute (E2SHI) which will serve as a virtual facility for coordination among professors and Hopkins schools in the name of reducing the University's carbon footprint. In addition, the institute will also provide recommendations to fill in Hopkins's gaps with regards to faculty and curriculum in this area.

E2SHI's Associate Director Cindy Parker explained that the seeds for the institute were first planted almost four years ago. "Students were pushing the previous president, President Brody, to take climate change more seriously and to look at what role the University could play in getting the climate stabilized," Parker said.

"That was a great active group of students and President Brody took them seriously, actually, and set up a task force with a number of components," she added.

Professor Ben Hobbs, the director of E2SHI, is also the chair of the task force. "We came up with an overall report that landed on President Daniels's desk the week he arrived," Hobbs said.

The report has three sections, one managing the University's activities such as what the school should do about energy

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## Pastabilities



This 81-inch tower, made by alumni couple Joseph McClintock and Kathleen Breen and their daughter Grace McClintock (left), won first place out of 15 teams. Hopkins held the annual Tower of Power engineering competition Monday. See page A2 for more.

CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

## Hopkins participates in recycling competition

By RACHEL WITKIN and ALLISON BORKO  
Staff Writers

At the end of January, Hopkins began participating in the Recyclemania Tournament, a recycling competition between 630 colleges across the nation to promote waste reduction on campuses. The competition will last for 10 weeks with the first two weeks not counting towards the actual score. Hopkins is currently in fifth place with a cumulative recycling rate of 29.76 percent.

"Recyclemania is a 10-week competition between over 600 colleges and universities to see who can recycle the most and reduce total waste. It is used as a competition and benchmarking tool for colleges and universities to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities," Sustainability Outreach Associate Joanna Calabrese wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. According to Calabrese, col-

leges and universities report recycling and trash data and are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate.

Hopkins is placed directly behind Princeton University. Georgetown University is in first place at the moment with a recycling rate of 51.18 percent. Other schools include Brown, Cornell, Harvard, MIT, University of Pennsylvania,

Stanford and Yale. Last year, Hopkins came in second place.

The winning school will receive a Waste Minimization award. Schools are also able to win other awards in the most paper recycled per capita, most cardboard recycled per capita, most bottles and cans recycled per capita, and most food organics (compostable and food waste).

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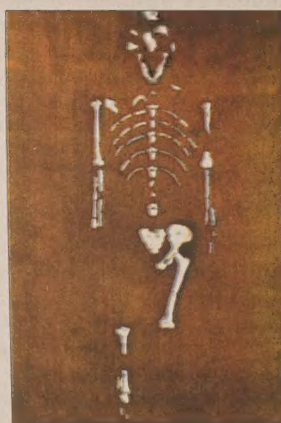
CAROLYN HAN/PHOTO EDITOR  
Recyclemania will last for 10 weeks.

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## FAS speaker broadcasted from space

By JUSTIN LI  
Staff Writer

Broadcasting live from the International Space Station (ISS), NASA Astronaut Cady Coleman spoke at the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) this past Sunday via video stream.

Aboard the ISS as a member of the Expedition 26 crew, Coleman gave a tour of the station and spoke about life on the station. She did a Q&A session with the audience and showed a stunning video of the Earth, the moon, and outer parts of the station.

Hodson 213, the room the event was held in, was well-suited for an interactive video stream. It featured two large 12 by 12 foot video screens and microphones at each seat that allowed audience members to speak directly to Coleman.

Despite the accomplishing of the impressive task of having a speaker broadcast live from space, the event still had its limitations. Cellphones had to be turned off completely because the data plans interfered

However, those hiccups did not detract from the awesome nature of the event. The entire audience was highly engaged, listening intently to Coleman's every word.

The video stream began before Coleman had reached the camera, showing the inside of the station. The corridors were roughly a dozen feet wide and tall and the walls were lined with equipment and wires.

The audience got a good example of the free-flowing nature of space whenever a 90 or 180 degree camera turn resulted in a video orientation that was not dizzying or confusing at all.

An effect of the lack of gravity Coleman also noted was that whether she felt her perspective was looking "down" at the Earth or "up" at it was similarly affected.

Coleman gave an overview of the ISS, describing its

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EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Coleman spoke at FAS from the International Space Station last Sunday.

with the video stream; the video stream had a time delay of a few seconds; sound quality became patchy sometimes and questions had to be repeated; and occasionally the video stream was lost entirely.

what bioethics is about, anyone can have an opinion and provide good insights into our discussions," she said.

Junior Ban Wang said he initially became interested in bioethics through his interest in medicine. "However, after taking classes in bioethics and being in this group, I've come to learn that bioethics is a field that encompasses many disciplines and is pertinent to almost all areas of study," he said.

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everyone can relate to... really anyone who has ever had a conversation about whether or not House is a good guy or not is having a conversation similar to the kind that we're having in bioethics club," senior Amy Marco, the current HUBS president, said.

Marco admitted that their group is currently small due to the fact that not many people think they know what bioethics is.

"Even though a lot of people might think they don't know

## Bioethics society tackles controversial issues

Though small, the group hopes to garner interest through documentary films

By DANIELLE STERN  
Staff Writer

The Hopkins Undergraduate Bioethics Society (HUBS) is a very small group that has been on campus for a few years. Meeting twice a month for discussions, 10 committed members discuss issues such as medical insurance, drug policies, abortion issues, environmental issues and informed consent.

"[The group is something that]

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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# The Lottery proves controversial

Hopkins Students for Liberty and Hopkins College Democrats host movie screening

By **STELLA KIM**  
For *The News-Letter*

Last Thursday evening, the Center for Social Concern, Hopkins Students for Liberty and JHU College Democrats jointly held a film screening of *The Lottery*, commenting on the achievement gaps in education within Baltimore and in the United States.

Prateik Dalmia, president of Hopkins Students for Liberty and Daniel Hochman, president of JHU College Democrats, were

Although *The Lottery* piqued overall interest among audience members, it also instigated contradicting opinions about the movie.

"I didn't know anything about this topic. It was eye-opening for me," junior Megan Seibold said.

"I think the movie itself was very biased. It made it look like every student who enters into the charter school will have success, guaranteed," Jay Kim said.

"The sad ending of the movie seemed to purposely stir emotions

of pro-charter school and didn't cover anything realistic such as funding issues. I think there was a lot of oversight to it," junior Mary Fanning said.

The panelist also didn't have that much of a positive view about the film.

"I think *The Lottery* conveys an idea of charter school vs. traditional school, us vs. them, and that charter schools care more about students. Promoting these ideas is inappropriate and un-

"We chose Dr. Marc. L. Stein to be the panelist of this event in order to bring alternative opinion of charter school, to bring variety in discussion," Dalmia said.

Botel shared his opinion about the achievement gap, pointing to the financial status of families and offered some suggestions as to what could be done to close the gap.

"I think the most egregious problem in public education is poverty," Botel said. "With only a \$14 trillion budget that has money to pay for jail but not for school, it is a serious problem. I think this problem can be improved by shifting the resources. If we reduce the number of kids that go to jail, we will have a more productive society."

Also, I don't think education is only about college. Out of all the students who make it to college, only 40 percent actually complete college. It is important for them to learn skills, such as plumbing skill so that they could have the ability to live."

Overall, the opinion about the Q&A session was positive.

"I am satisfied with how the discussion went. We had a lot of well-rounded opinion about the topic," Hochman said.

"I wish there was more time for discussion. It was more like two hours of movie and then twenty minutes of discussion," Fanning said.

"I think these types of discussion are needed to find out what works and what doesn't," Botel added.

Hochman added that while he believed more people would have attended had the event not taken place during dinner time, he believed that the people who did show up are those who actually care about the topic.

"Turnout was solid given the fact that the event started during dinner time," he said. "We would have liked to see more people. I could tell that the people that were there really cared

helpful," Mr. Jason Botel, one of the three panelists said.

The slide show, presented by Dahlia Graham who is the movie's tour coordinator, gave basic facts about the current situation of the achievement gap, and what is being done in charter schools to ensure the success of children and close this gap.

The three panelists who participated in the panel discussion were Jason Botel, who currently is the executive director of KIPP Baltimore, Dr. Marc L. Stein, a professor of the department of teacher development and leadership at Hopkins and Mr. Robert Murphy, specialist in Dropout Prevention at the Maryland State Department.

Graham invited Botel and Murphy to be the panelists of this event while Prateik invited Stein.

and they were very focused on the issue."

Seibold expressed interest in attending another similar event.

"If there is another event like this, I probably will come," Seibold said.



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Speakers present a slide show comparing public and charter schools.

the primary organizers of this event.

Dalmia and Hochman thought that this event would be a good chance for Liberals and Democrats to get together and foster bi-partisanship.

The event was in three parts, the first being the actual screening of *The Lottery* followed by a slide show presentation about the basic facts about the problems of achievement gaps within Baltimore and within the United States, and lastly with a panel discussion.

*The Lottery*, a film by Madeleine Sackler, describes the failures of the traditional public school system and reveals that hundreds of thousands of parents attempt to avoid the system every year.

The film follows four of these families from Harlem and the Bronx who have entered their children in a charter school lottery to escape the public school system.

The Lottery shows a small minority winning the lottery and gaining a chance to get into a charter school.

Hochman said that he chose to screen *The Lottery* because he thought it covered a topic that appeals to both the liberals and the democrats and that it would be something that they could both agree upon.

"Screening the movie was important because we need to have more of a conversation as a country about closing the achievement gap," Hochman said.



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Dahlia Graham, who is in charge of The Lottery screening tour addressed students before the screening.



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Hopkins Undergraduate Engineering Society invited students to compete to build the tallest possible structure under 30 minutes.

## JHU hosts pasta tower competition

By **RACHEL WITKIN**  
News & Features Editor

This Monday, the Hopkins Undergraduate Engineering Society (HUES) hosted the "Power of Tower" competition. 15 different teams comprised of students, alumni and even middle school students who competed to see who could build the tallest tower out of pasta and marshmallows.

This is the fourth year that the event occurred, marking the start of Engineers Week. Other events this week included "Climbing the Career Ladder — Practical Advice for Students in the STEM Industry" held this Tuesday, yesterday's "Society of Engineering Alumni Speed Networking," and today's "M. Gordon 'Reds' Wolman Memorial Seminar and Art Installation."

"We wanted to do something fun, something cheap, something that people who did and didn't have engineering backgrounds could take part in," HUES President senior Jinesh Shah said.

"You don't necessarily have to be an engineer to be in this or to even do well in this," Shah said.

The clock started exactly at 6:00 p.m., and teams were given until 6:30 p.m. to build their towers.

Teams could finish before the 30 minutes were up, but the towers would still have to stand up for five minutes after the team declared that they were finished.

Teams used various strategies and intricate patterns, all aimed at achieving the greatest possible height.

"The objective is who can make the tallest tower," Shah said. "You can make it as fancy or as simple as you want, but in the end it's the height that counts."

The alumni team ended up getting first place, with an 81-

inch high tower. The team was made up of Joseph McClintock, who received his undergraduate degree in 1979 and went on to get his Ph.D in physics, his wife Kathleen Breen, who graduated in 1991 with a materials science degree, and their daughter Grace McClintock. This was their third year in a row winning.

"We just tried a lot of shapes," Grace McClintock said. "We had done a tetrahedral before, with another one on top, and we wanted to try to cut off part of the side and still have the structural strength."

However, very close behind to them was a team made up of a group of four middle school students from the Waldorf School of Baltimore. They ended up in second place, with a tower that was 75 inches tall.

"Our school does [the competition] every year," seventh grader Susie Gittelsohn said. Her team, made up of eighth grader Courtney Athas, seventh grader Lucretia Field, and eighth grader Aspen Gastin, used triangles as the basis for their strategy.

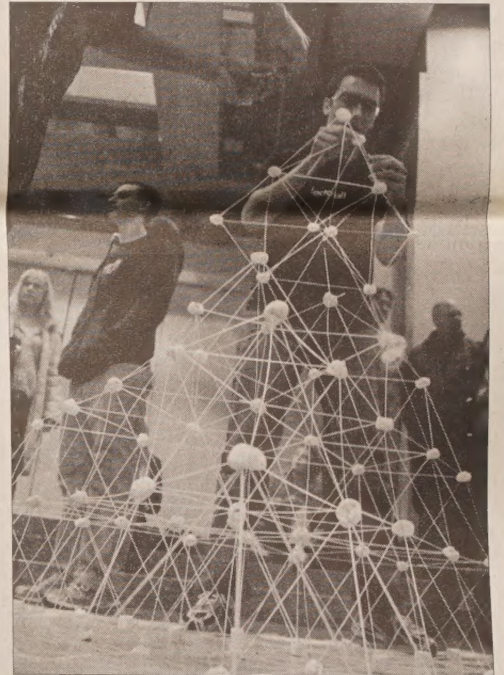
Both the alumni and the Waldorf teams' towers ended up falling, but after the five minute period was over so their scores still counted.

A Hopkins undergraduate team, named King Kang, came in third place with a tower that was 61 inches high.

The team, made up of sophomores Saurav Ghoshal, Marvin Yuen, and Joseph Zavodny, also came in third place last year.

"Our strategy was using four or five or six layers of triangles," Zavodny said.

The alumni team was awarded with \$80 in giftcards, and the Waldorf team \$40. However, the alumni gave their giftcards to the second and third place teams.



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Students build intricate towers using pasta and marshmallows.

"The alumni team was nice and gave us their [giftcards]," Field said. Her team was especially excited about the Chipotle and Starbucks cards.

There were also many teams, many comprised of engineers, who tried their best, but could not compete with the alumni and middle school teams.

"[Ours] had really poor craftsmanship," freshman Daniel Abolafia said. His team was made up of freshmen Jay DeYoung, Max Doherty and Rachel McClover.

Abolafia, who plans to become an engineer, had a solid plan for his tower. "The simplest design possible is triangles with crossbeams in each layer," he said.

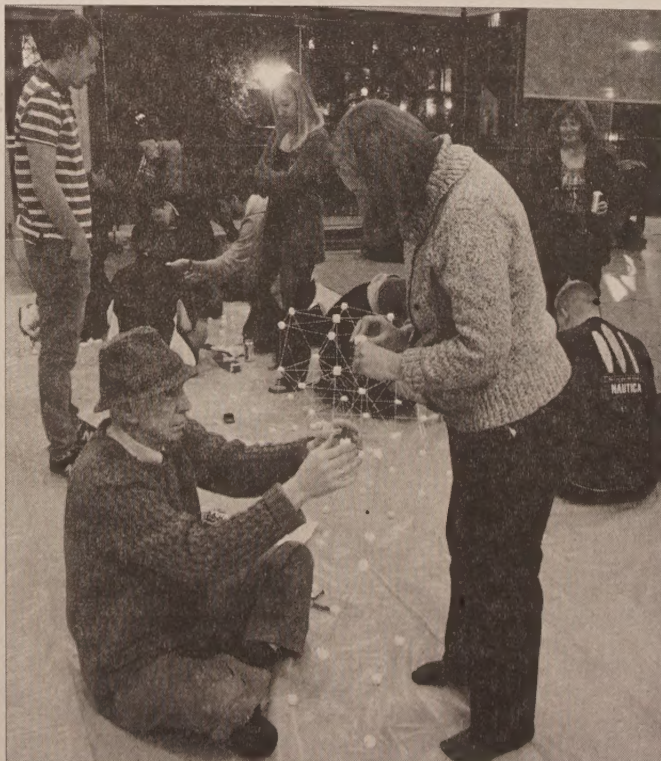
HUES highly publicized the event to try and get more students aware of what engineers do in a fun way.

"I got an email about it and wanted to see what was going on," freshman Blaise Watson said.

Freshman Nikhil Chavali came to the event because it sounded interesting. "I just wanted to see what the engineers do," he said.

Shah was very pleased with the turnout. "I think the audience turnout was a lot higher than we expected," he said.

"I think that's because we publicized it pretty effectively. We had more than 100 people show up today. We had 25 boxes of pizza, and they were done in 15 minutes, so I think it was a pretty good turnout [and that] people had fun."



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR  
Competitors were not limited to only current students but also included alumni.



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# SGA to host Wiz Khalifa concert

By NICKY HARNIK  
Staff Writer

Student body president Mark Dirzulaitis kicked off this week's SGA meeting by informing members that preparation for the upcoming Wiz Khalifa concert, sponsored by the SGA, were well on track. "Wiz Khalifa ticket sales are going well," Dirzulaitis said. According to Dirzulaitis, SGA had sold approximately 1,100 tickets as of Tuesday.

The tickets are for a concert headlined by Wiz Khalifa, a rapper whose song "Black and Yellow" has been a radio staple these past few weeks. The SGA plans to host the event at the Pier Six Pavilion on April 28th. The Pier Six Pavilion is a local music venue located in downtown Baltimore.

The Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP), rather than the SGA, will be taking care of transportation to the concert, which will start at 6:30 p.m.

Dirzulaitis also talked about his meeting with Dean of Student Life Susan Bosewell, where

in they discussed what would be on the agenda for the SGA's conference with provost Lloyd Minor.

Because Dirzulaitis felt that the SGA's short-term goals, such as an increase in the student activities budget had been accomplished, he stressed that he would focus on larger-picture things at the conference.

This would include projects like creating a freshman quad and new dormitory on the Olmsted lot, the empty space across the street from Charles Commons.

After Dirzulaitis spoke, the SGA Vice President junior Elizabeth Duval addressed the issue of attendance at the SGA meetings. She emphasized the importance of members showing up at each

and every meeting, especially in light of recent absences by members. One unnamed SGA member had five absences so far, and has only one left before he/she will be removed from the position.

Next, SGA Treasurer Wyatt Larkin addressed the committee's budget questions. According to Larkin, the SGA was allotted \$14,500 at the beginning of the year and had spent a little under half at the semester mark.

The SGA also began the year with \$30,000 in reserves, but now has only \$22,000 following expenses

better ways to elicit student feedback.

Academic Affairs Committee also discussed the possibility of getting a double-sided printer installed in Charles Commons.

According to Dworin, the new double-sided printers would be more efficient and environmentally-friendly than their older, single-side printer counterparts.

Shortly thereafter, the Finance Committee explored the idea of changing the \$100 fee for new start up groups. The committee promised to continue working on how to replace the fee.

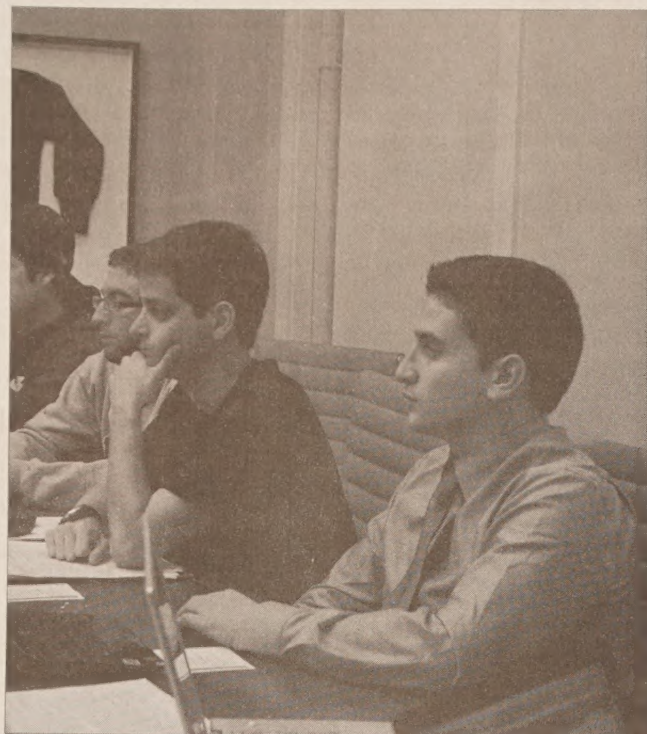
The Student Involvement Committee conferred with the rest of the SGA about trying to promote the Student Initiatives Grant. The grant is a program that awards \$500-\$1,000 to a student or student group that comes up with an idea that would improve student life on campus. Plans for the grant will be discussed in greater detail at next week's SGA meeting.

Finally, freshman class president Merrill Anovick discussed the upcoming High Table dinner. The event, a tradition that started last year, is a formal

dining extravaganza designed for the freshman class wherein numerous faculty members, including the President and Provost of the University, wear academic regalia and sit on a "high" table.

Anovick hoped to have at least 800 students at the dinner, which will be held in the Recreation Center. Anovick added that the Recreation Center was chosen for the dinner because it is big enough to hold the entire freshman class.

The banquet will feature two speeches and a secular prayer. The notion of having a prayer caused some concern among the members; however, it was quickly made clear that the prayer would be nonreligious and similar to a Thanksgiving-type speech.



FILE PHOTO

The SGA discussed a variety of issues such as the possible use of the Olmsted lot.

on the Wiz Khalifa concert.

Larkin, however, said that he would keep an eye on the reserves, making sure it doesn't fall too low. "I wouldn't want [the reserves] to drop below \$15,000," Larkin said.

The Academic Affairs Committee then discussed how its original plan for course suggestion submissions did not go as planned, and how it is currently thinking of other ways to procure comments.

One proposal that came up was to follow Columbia University's model and mandate that students fill out class surveys in order to find out their semester grades.

Senior representative Max Dworin objected to this proposition with the belief that there are



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Efy Flamm addressed students who attended a class as part of the Kollel program, which seeks to educate students on Judaism.

## Kollel program pays for participation

By CYDNEY WEINER  
Staff Writer

On February 16, the Kollel program began for the semester. The program, founded by Jewish community leader Efy Flamm, is a weekly course that lasts ten weeks, catering to Jewish students looking to learn more about Judaism. Upon completion of the program, which culminates in a Shabbos (Friday night dinner) experience shared with Flamm and his family in Pikesville, students receive a \$150 stipend.

"The stipend provides an incentive for students to join," Flamm said. "And then sort of rewards them for their commitment."

Flamm, who began the program at Towson University five years ago, based the Kollel program from a similar program that offers stipends to young Jews and has been successful around the country.

"The reason that I call my program the Kollel is because throughout Jewish history there's always been the concept of ten men studying on behalf of the rest of the community who always received a stipend," Flamm said. "And that's called a Kollel."

"So I figured I'd just call mine the Kollel because that's ultimately what's happening here. You're getting paid to commit for eight weeks and through those people learning, the rest of the Hopkins community benefits."

The program is funded privately through the Jewish Collegiate Network, an organization that Flamm founded in 1989, and relies on individual donors from the Baltimore Jewish community as well as others in New York and New Jersey.

Junior Ali Cohen, who participated in the first Kollel course held on campus in spring 2009, now helps as a recruiter for the

program on behalf of Flamm.

"I know that personally [the stipend] was just a perk for me," Cohen said. "At that point I just wanted to learn more about Judaism and this was a great opportunity, but I think that when it's advertised on Facebook as 'Get paid \$150 to Learn About Judaism' it's certainly a nice draw for people."

And the stipend has drawn students, including Freshman Elie Kaplan who is currently participating in the program, along with about 10 other students.

"I was definitely interested in taking the class regardless, but I probably would have chosen a different time to take it because this semester is already crazy," Kaplan said. "I probably wouldn't have added another class if it wasn't for the stipend, but I kind of thought of it almost as a cool job because it's only an hour and a half a week."

Besides the cash incentive, students are also drawn to the accessibility of the course, Flamm explained.

"It's a Jewish lifestyle class," Flamm explained. "The class is based on information that the students can look at and say that's relevant to my life, being a Johns Hopkins student in the year 2011."

In addition to learning about Jewish lifestyle, Kaplan also hopes to learn more about past and current events that continue to affect Jews around the world.

"I'm hoping to walk away with a better understanding of the historical aspects of Judaism, but also just to be more educated so that I can to speak more effectively when talking about Judaism or Israel," Kaplan said.

For Cohen, it was the course's content but also Flamm's teaching style that contributed to her positive experience.

"[Efy] is very charismatic and entertaining and he does know his stuff," Cohen said. "He's kind of like this cool guy who's funny and laughs a lot and he makes it engaging. I think for students that don't necessarily have a strong background [in Judaism] he makes it exciting to go."

Though she has been active in the Hopkins Jewish community since her freshman year, Cohen said she hopes that the Kollel program will instill some students with the confidence to get involved.

"I find that a lot of times students just don't feel engaged or may not ever think about being involved in the Jewish community," Cohen said. "So if they take this class they can kind of feel like they have a foundation and that they're part of the community. I think it's really important that students are aware of that in college to develop that foundation for life."

Similarly, Flamm hopes to target students that wouldn't otherwise be connected to the Hopkins Jewish community.

"The ultimate goal at Hopkins is not necessarily to have students that are already really committed to taking the class, but to really have students not involved in Hillel or other Jewish groups on campus to take the class," Flamm said. "But that takes time through the network of students, but that really is my goal, to accomplish that."

While Cohen completed the course two years ago, she still periodically shares Shabbat with Flamm and his family.

"The Shabbat experience at his house with his family is just something that I'll never forget," Cohen said. "His wife prepares food for 50 to 80 college students every single week and there's singing and table pounding. It's just really great."

## Two Hopkins affiliates create website where students buy and sell items, share ideas

By LAURA FLYNN  
Staff Writer

The MySugu website allows students to sell their textbooks, clothes and almost anything online. It was started by George Karikas, an alumnus of Hopkins, and Andrew Wang, a current senior, when they realized that there must be a more efficient way for graduating seniors to sell their property and then move out of their homes.

"I tried to use Craigslist and sell my own stuff, but no one showed up," Karikas said. "I decided there had to be a better way."

3,000 students agree and now have an account on MySugu. After creating an account, users can post any item that they wish to sell. The item can then be bid and sold. While this sounds similar to Amazon and Craigslist, MySugu differs because only Hopkins student can use the site engine.

"That's why it's safe," Wang said. Students know that their items are being sold to students just like them in the Baltimore area. Freshman Kierra Anne Foley chose to sell her textbooks on MySugu rather than on Amazon.

"I feel safe using the website," she said, "And I like how I know that the kids buying my stuff are

just like me."

This level of comfort, felt by its users, is one of the many reasons why MySugu has been such a success. The textbook exchange, which Wang and Karikas added after MySugu started as a general market, is definitely most revered and popular in the eyes of Hopkins students. Students are not only able to exchange books, but they can exchange information about shared classes.

change information about shared classes.

"I found out from a seller that she never used a textbook that I was about to buy, for a certain class," an anonymous junior said. Since for many classes, the required textbooks end up not being necessary to the acquisition of the course content, students spend money that could have been saved. MySugu allows its users to communicate about

the information found in each textbook, and which are most essential for the classes. This open communication allows both sellers and buyers to get a good deal.

"A lot of times you see students messaging back and forth, negotiating. [MySugu] eliminated the middle man," Karikas said. Many students who bought their books at Barnes and Noble were surprised at the extremely high prices

"I found that [purchasing online books] was very convenient, however after having seen how expensive the books were, I was turned off," junior Elizabeth Duval said.

Sophomore Pearl Amaechi was angered by the prices of the textbooks by Barnes and Noble.

"We are going to school here to get an education, and since

Barnes and Noble is affiliated with the school it should be focused on student interest" she said.

While the books on MySugu are cheaper, they are used. Some students feel more comfortable buying their textbooks from Barnes and Noble because they feel that the books are ensured to be in perfect condition.

"[Barnes and Noble is] more

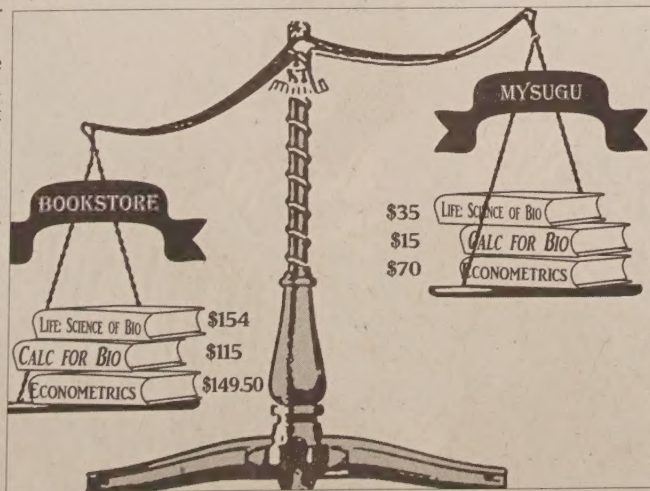
expensive, but high quality," freshman Marcella Lunn said.

Freshman Kara Deppe buys from Barnes and Noble because it's much more accessible. "I think the prices are a little ridiculous, but it's a lot easier than going online and buying books" she said.

Regardless, the online market MySugu is continuing to become more popular here at Hopkins.

Karikas and Wang hope to create networks on MySugu for other schools in the area such as Loyola and Towson. They want to give students there the same option of selling their textbooks and items specifically to students at their campus.

"It's a great way to bring the community together and we hope to be at [Towson] by the end of the semester" Karikas said.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Textbooks on MySugu tend to be much cheaper than books sold at Barnes and Noble because students set the price. *Life: The Science of Biology*, the used textbook for General Biology II, is priced at \$154.85 on the Barnes and Noble site. On MySugu, one is able to buy the textbook for as low as \$35. Barnes and Noble representatives were not available to comment on the price differentiation.

Students are not only able to exchange books, but they can ex-

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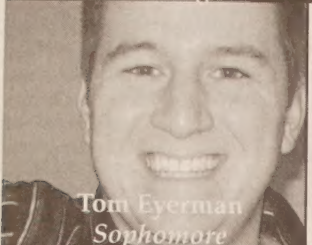
# Man on the Street

## OSCARS: What is your top pick for Best Picture and what are you most interested in seeing during the 2011 Oscars this Sunday?



**Meredith Ward**  
Lecturer, Film and Media  
Studies Program

"I am particularly excited to see how the Academy treats *True Grit* this year. I think it's hard to touch this one in terms of the Best Picture nominees. [Her] performance, with all that steel and strength of character, was certainly what moved me most about the film."



**Tom Eyerman**  
Sophomore

"My favorite movie of the year was *Black Swan*, but I think *The Social Network* is going to win. I look most forward to *Inception* getting the shaft on all of the awards."



**Clare Richardson**  
Junior

"I hope *Black Swan* wins Best Picture. I think Darren [Aronofsky] did an amazing job and Natalie's transformation was amazing. The thematic devices were really ingenious. I'm excited because for the Oscars because I read that James Franco and Anne Hathaway are doing an opening monologue with time-travelling. I'd like to see how their dynamic remotely pulls off what usually is the mainstay of old-time comedians."



**Deanna Cotsalas**  
Freshman

"I think that *The Fighter* should win because I love Mark Wahlberg, everybody loves Mark Wahlberg... [For the Oscars], I'm most looking forward to seeing the dresses. The designers make the dresses especially for the Oscars for the actresses so it pretty much showcases all of their work for the year in a nutshell."



**Josh Gleason**  
Senior

"For Best Picture I think *The Social Network* should win. It was really well-written and acted and a classical story of power struggle and betrayal and those sorts of themes that people seem to sort of overlook because it's about Facebook. I'm most looking forward to seeing how Anne Hathaway and James Franco work hosting it."



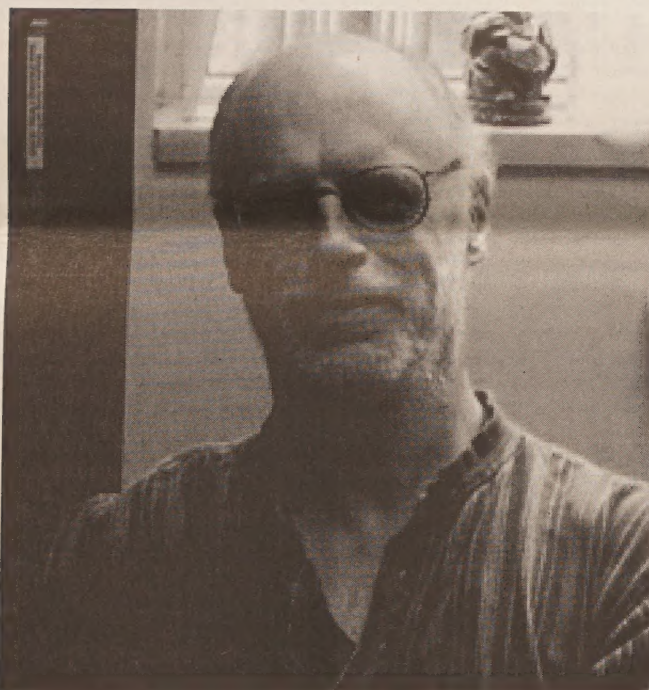
**Emily Needell**  
Junior

"My favorite for best picture is a tie between *True Grit* and *The King's Speech*. I'm most looking forward to watching them because I didn't watch them last year because I didn't like anything that was nominated for Best Picture. This year I like almost all of the films that have been nominated."

—Compiled by Abigail Harri

## Things I've learned with professor and paleontologist David Weishampel

Weishampel, who teaches the popular "Dinosaurs" class, discusses his interests, travels and his upcoming new book



By **EMILY NADELMANN**  
Staff Writer

David Weishampel is a paleontologist and a professor at the Hopkins School of Medicine. Though he only teaches one class for undergraduates—simply titled "Dinosaurs"—his class is widely known and extremely popular. Currently, he is working on a book, *Transylvania Dinosaurs*, which will be coming out this April. *The News-Letter* decided to sit down with Weishampel to discuss his passion for paleontology and his travels to the farthest reaches of the world in search of dinosaur bones.

*The News-Letter* (N-L): Where did you grow up?

David Weishampel (DW): I grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland, Ohio.

N-L: What subjects were you most interested in in high school?

DW: I took science things, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. I did take art in junior high

though, and I liked it a lot!

N-L: Which schools did you attend and in which careers were you interested?

DW: Well, I've wanted to be a dinosaur paleontologist ever since I was probably seven years old. I still have the same enthusiasm, but I have a little bit more intellectual perspective now than when I was seven. I went to Ohio State as an undergraduate and I went to University of Toronto as a masters' student and I went to the University of Pennsylvania as a PhD student.

N-L: So what did you do after you received your PhD?

DW: Each schooling went in turn so I didn't take any time off from my bachelors to my masters to my PhD. When I finished up by PhD in Philadelphia, I had a post-doctoral fellowship in Tübingen, Germany and I learned about a lot of different sorts of things there, including how to do history of science research. So I was fourteen months there and then two years in Miami, FL where I taught at Florida International University. I've been here for twenty-five years.

N-L: Which classes have

you taught?

DW: Very few here at Homewood, although I have taught the dinosaur class every year for several years. I used to teach evolutionary biology class, an evening class, when I first got here.

N-L: Which other campuses do you teach at?

DW: I've always had my primary teaching at the medical school, where I am now and have been or the past twenty-five years. I teach the human anatomy course for the first year medical students.

N-L: What was your favorite class to teach?

DW: I really like to teach the dinosaur class but I enjoy teaching them all. There is something about the interaction I have with the students and the students have with me that makes all sorts of feelings a lot of fun. I intend to have fun because that is one of the greatest things you can do in life-- have a good time.

N-L: Are you doing any research besides teaching?

DW: Yes, I have been busy doing research that comes of fieldwork in Montana, collecting dinosaurs in Montana, collecting

dinosaurs in Western Romania, which is also known as Transylvania and I have done fieldwork in Central Hungary and in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. So that's where my original data comes from along with other people's collections through the past century. *This takes me around the world to different museums.*

N-L: What are you currently teaching this semester?

DW: I'm doing some teaching here and I'm doing some teaching down at the med school. But I'm also writing a book, or rather I'm finishing a book, it's being due of in April. It's called *Transylvania Dinosaurs* and Johns Hopkins' University Press is publishing it. It was written by me and my co-investigator from Romania, Cora Jianu. It's about everything you want to know about Transylvania dinosaurs. It is about living on islands in the middle of Europe eight million years ago.

N-L: What types of students do you typically get in your dinosaur class?

DW: All sorts. I think it's mostly non-science majors. It is a course that revolves around science for non-science majors that the biology department likes to run.

## Hopkins In 300 Words

Levering Hall, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.

By **RIAN DAWSON**  
Staff Writer

The Levering Food Court, in the basement of the hall of the same name, sandwiched between Hodson and Gilman, is dark.

It doesn't have floor to ceiling windows like the FFC, nor does it have bright colors. Some of the furniture is a deep purple, some seats orange.

There Levering Food Court is bustling around lunchtime with studying and gossiping students.

are three "rooms." The first is filled with tables, where students sit, gossip and eat.

The second has these tables but also a food court, with salads and burgers being the order of the day.

The third has tables sandwiched between pizzas and subs. During lunchtime, conservatively between

noon and 1:30 PM, any day of the week, it's busy.

Real busy.

The line at the grill is long, but moves fast. There are always many, many people.



COURTESY OF RIAN DAWSON

taken. The two-tops along the walls (in the middle room) are taken.

Two Asian boys sit one of the tables near the exit with computers and school work out and their food sitting in their lap.

One talks about his Korean class and the vocabulary they learned. The other nods and listens.

In an area with cushioned seats, not too far from the two Asian boys, an older couple, definitely not students, sit and talk.

The man has a Chick-Fil-A cup, the woman bought something at Levering.

He sprawls out on the couch, leaving no room for anyone to sit next to him.

He and the woman talk, but they're too far away for me to hear.

Some linger for an hour or more, talking about this, that or the other.

Others take a meal-to-go and eat it on the way to class, or sit at the high-top between the two registers and scarf the meal in five minutes flat.

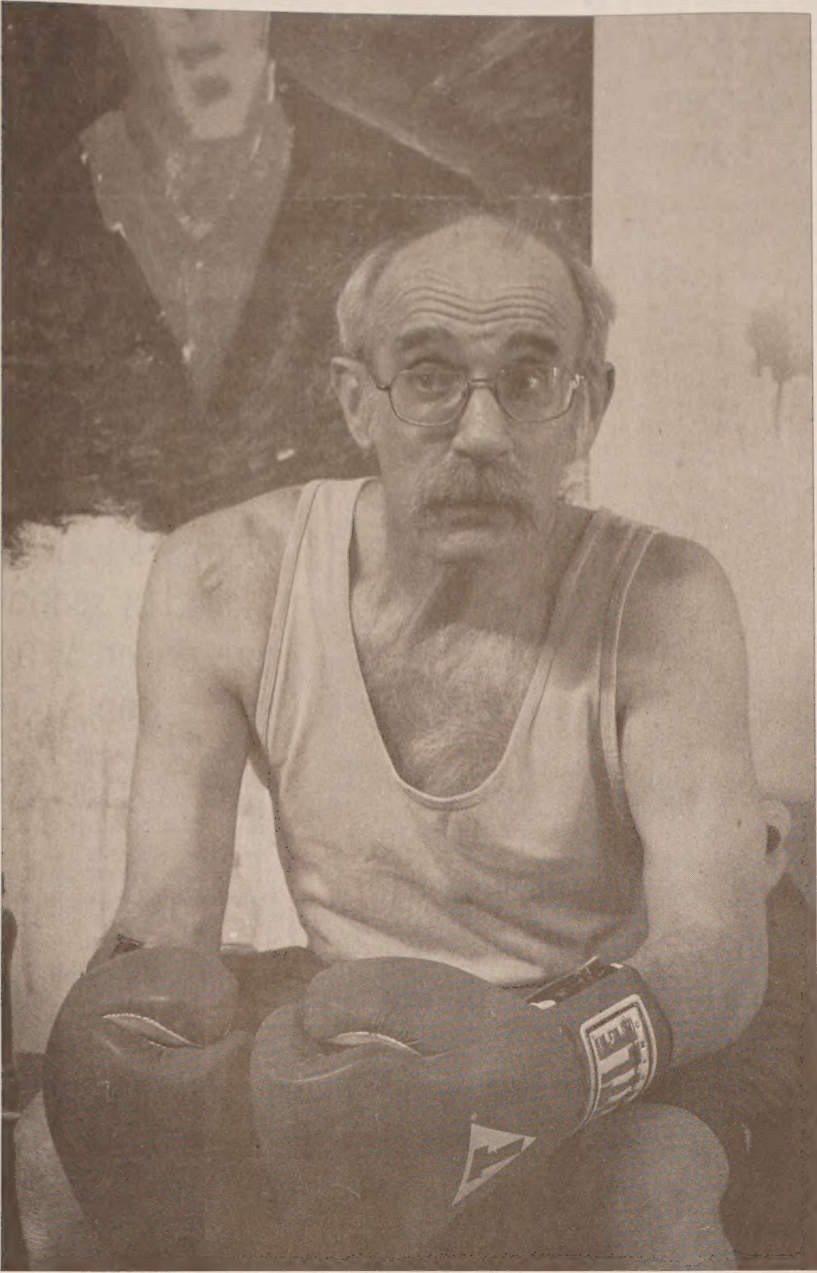
At 12:15, though, things have calmed down.

Almost all the booths are



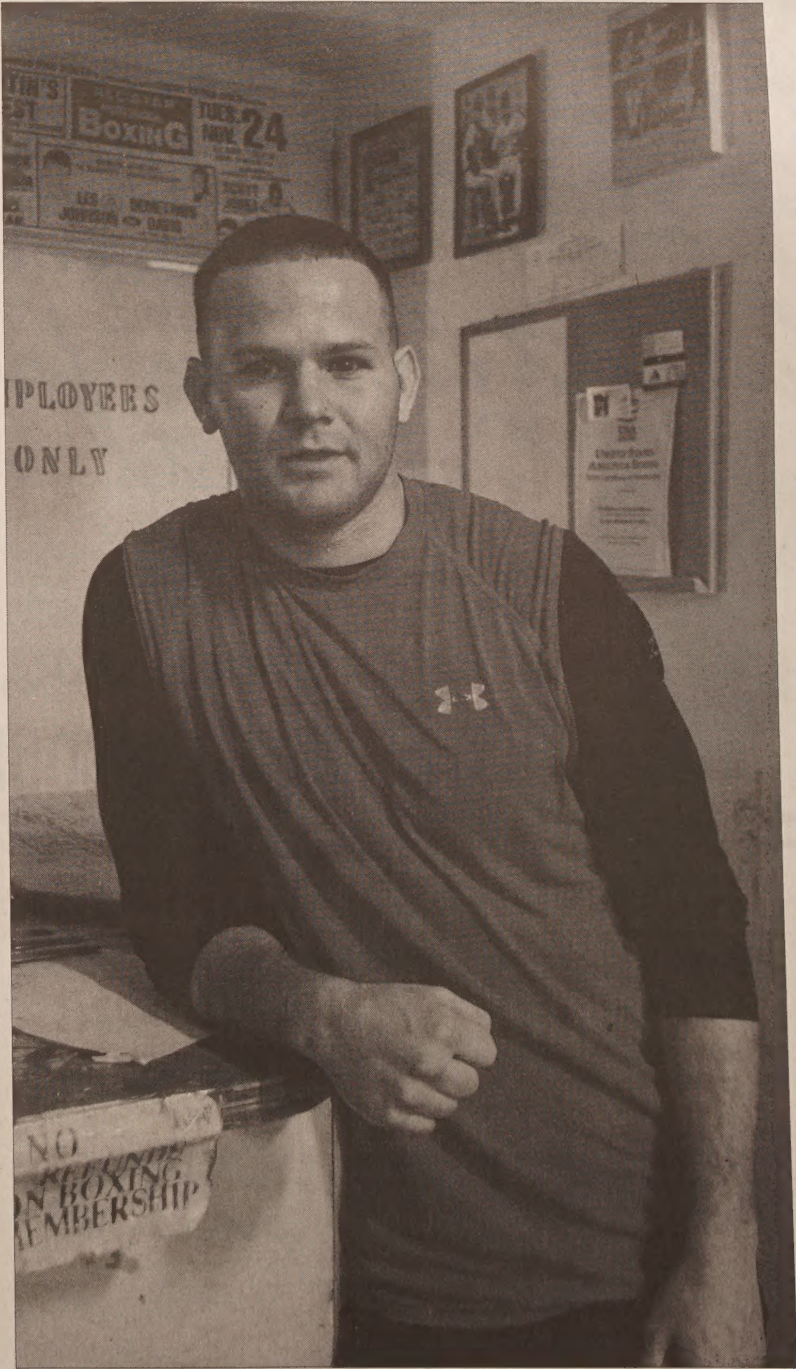
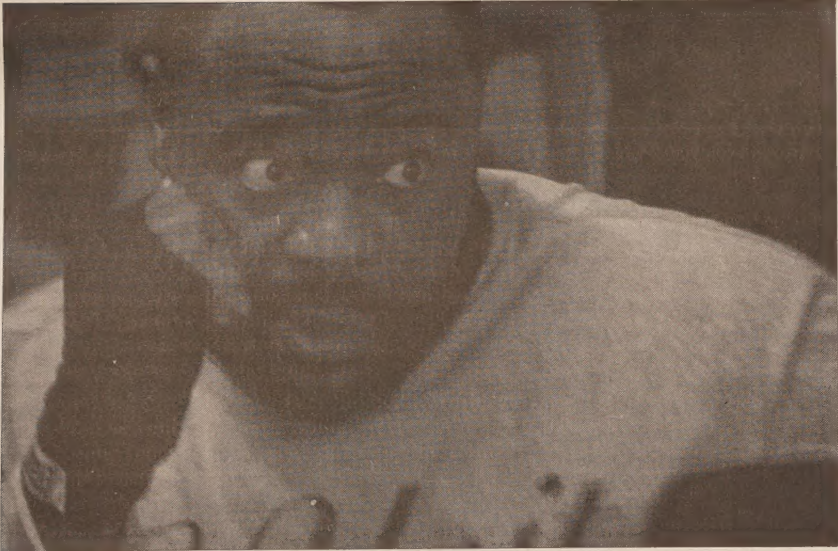
ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR





# Baltimore's Million Dollar Babies

By Husain Danish





## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## Hopkins News in Brief

## Hopkins under attack for illegal use of animals in doctor training

A former state health secretary and a physicians group dedicated to supporting animal rights are demanding that the city prosecutor investigate the Hopkins School of Medicine.

They claim that the school illegally uses live animals to train surgeons.

While the group, which includes several Hopkins alumni, has been attacking Hopkins for over five years through letters, phone calls and protests, this is the first time it has asked the law to act.

In response to the attacks university spokeswoman Audrey Huang has said that the school acts in compliance with all laws and institutional guidelines and that the use of live animals is overseen by veterinarians.

## Hopkins team asserts hospitals will cut costs by going green

A Johns Hopkins team argues that contrary to popular belief, hospitals reducing their operating rooms' carbon footprint will not cost the facility more.

According to the team, nearly 70 percent of hospital waste comes from the operating rooms and labor-and-delivery suites where choices can be made to lessen waste.

For example, sterilized equipment gets opened but never used, red medical waste bags are filled with harmless waste that can be more cheaply disposed and overhead lights devour energy instead of sipping it.

The team's top five strategies

include improving the management of pharmacy waste, considering the environment when making purchase decisions and reprocessing single-use medical devices.

only the Baltimore area but will include Washington D.C., West Virginia, parts of Illinois, Denver and Philadelphia.

Researchers foresee the program expanding to all fifty states.



COURTESY OF DAILYGALAXY.COM  
Hopkins professor wins award for a ground-breaking discovery of dark energy.

## Hopkins offers mail-in STD tests to encourage self-testing among youths under 25

Johns Hopkins has developed a program for sexually active young people who avoid taking STD tests due to embarrassment and the fear of having to discuss the issue with their parents.

The program, entitled "I Want the Kit," provides a free mail-in STD testing kit covers the three most prevalent sexually-transmitted diseases including chlamydia and gonorrhea.

Test results arrive via phone call within two weeks and require that the user enter an assigned ID number and password to ensure privacy and anonymity.

The program is not limited to

## Hopkins astrophysicist wins the 2011 Einstein medal for discovery of dark energy

Hopkins astrophysicist Adam Riess won the 2011 Einstein Medal, a prize awarded annually since 1979 by the Albert Einstein Society in Switzerland for outstanding scientific work linked to Einstein's, for his discovery of "dark energy," a mysterious force that is accelerating the expansion of the universe.

Riess said that the force, whose identity remains in question, ties quantum mechanics and Einstein's theory of general relativity together, explaining how the two work together.

Riess will share the prize with Saul Perlmutter from UC Berkeley, whose team published similar results on dark energy right after Riess's team.

## City News in Brief

## 17 Baltimore police officers charged for extortion

Baltimore police officers were charged with diverting drivers at accident scenes to an unauthorized towing company and repair shop and then taking kickbacks.

The owners, brothers Edwin Javier Mejia and Hernan Alexis Moreno Mejia, of Majestic Auto Repair Shop in Rosedale, along with the officers have been charged with conspiracy to commit extortion.

The Mejia brothers paid officers to arrange for their company, which wasn't a city-authorized shop, to tow vehicles away from accident scenes for repairs. Officers received \$300 per vehicle.

Officers are supposed to allow the owner of the damaged vehicle to arrange for a tow by himself. FBI Special Agent in Charge, Richard McFeely and Commissioner Frederick Bealefeld collected the badges from the officers before said officers were arrested.

## Baltimore Police are searching for the driver of a fatal hit-and-run

56-year-old Jong Park was killed late Tuesday in Catonsville. He was walking in the southbound lane of Rolling Road around 10:35 p.m. when the vehicle, also traveling south, hit him near the intersection of Adil Court.

The driver of the vehicle did not stop after hitting Park. Park was taken to Northwest Hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

Although the police have no information about the driver, the vehicle was described as a four-door, 1998-2002 Mercury Grand Marquis, dark in color. The accident may have caused damage to the windshield and grill.

Park's death is the second caused by a hit-and-run driver in the county in just over a week. Jason M. Cheslik was killed by a van on Jan. 13 near his home in Overlea.

## Baltimore home sales jump 27 percent in the month of January

According to the national Association of Realtors, sales of existing homes in the Baltimore area have increased 27 percent in January. The median sale price of \$218,300, however, has dropped 5.1 percent from January of last year. In the rest of the United States, sales have been on the rise for the third consecutive month, up 3.3 percent from last year.

Similarly the median price has declined from 2.7 percent to \$163,800.

## Baltimore bank boss on probation for carrying a loaded gun to the airport

Edwin Hale, the chairman

and chief executive of First Mariner Bancorp and the owner of the Baltimore Blast indoor soccer team, was placed on one year of unsupervised probation and fined \$342.50 this past Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Hale was carrying a loaded gun in his carry-on luggage.

Hale said he was flying to Milwaukee for a Blast match on Feb. 4 and had meant to leave his .38 caliber revolver at home when he was caught at BWI with it.

Hale said he has a right-to-carry permit and forgot to remove the weapon in his rush to get to the airport.

## 84 year old woman struck and killed by school bus driven by her son

Virginia Hammond was flown to the Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore after being struck by a school bus on Wednesday morning.

Her son, 60-year-old Ronald Hammond had just finished his morning route and was backing the bus back into his driveway when his mother walked behind the bus and was hit.

Hammond was pronounced dead at the Shock Trauma Center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AOL TRAVEL.COM  
Chief executive of the First Mariner Bancorp was fined for carrying a loaded weapon in BWI.



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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

## Bioethics society seeks to increase student membership

BIOETHICS, FROM A1

The group meets twice a month for discussions, which are moderated and recorded so that the contents of the meeting can be posted on the blog. Through this platform, those who cannot attend meetings, or have additional thoughts may comment on the topic. On weeks that there are not discussions, speakers will come in to give a talk.

"The first speaker [was] Professor Hilary Bok, who [discussed] stem cell banks," Marco said. The program entitled, "Who Will Be Counted?: A Closer Look At Stem Cells" took place on Wednesday, Feb. 23rd. Additionally, the club will be hosting several members from the Berman Institute of Bioethics, located on the Eastern Hopkins campus, as well as Valerie Bonham, the executive director of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

"We all know that medicine is important," Wang wrote. "However, we hardly ever consider the ethical implications behind medicine, as well as how the decision-making process doctors go through in treating patients essentially follows the same path of theoretical analysis as say public policy, law, political theory, or even physics."

There are currently 10 student members who, along with several members of the Berman Institute, are working to make HUBS a legitimate presence on the Hopkins campus. Marco stressed that Executive Director Abbas Rattini, along with Ishan Dasgupta and Larissa Woskob, have been integral in working with HUBS. "They've worked really hard to help organize and mobilize the organization, find speakers, and create the website," she said.

"When I was first hired by Hopkins in September, I was interested in engaging undergraduate students in bioethics," Rattini wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. With the help of colleague, Ishan Dasgupta, Rattini revived the Hopkins Undergrad-

uate Bioethics Society.

"We hope to give more power and independence to our members as well as successfully train them in substantial leadership skills," Rattani wrote. "So far we have recruited some amazing passionate students who have been helping HUBS grow into a nuanced student organization."

"I think this is a mental faculty that undergraduates at Hopkins, including myself, oftentimes lack," Wang added. "We have the general conception that knowledge is about learning theories and applying them when needed, but we fail to look at new problems and critically analyze them through the lens of ethics."

HUBS is currently working on some film projects that have developed from short films into more sitcom-like webisodes. "The point of the film is to highlight a bioethical issue in a humorous way that can briefly introduce people to the kind of ethical concept that can occur in medicine," Marco said.

The projects will be shown to medical students and possibly to undergraduate students eventually.

"They're also proving to be a great way for our members to grapple with the best way of presenting these conflicts," Marco said.

The current focus is on writing and organization, and the group hopes to have at least a few episodes for next fall. Some of the subjects include informed consent, in vitro fertilization, stem cell research, dementia, addiction and psychological disorders. "This project is one that we plan to continue and add on to as we go," Marco said. "Hopefully we'll be adding on the list of topics [that we are covering] as time goes on."

"In essence, being in this group has helped me develop a faculty for critical thinking, and I ultimately hope to empower all undergraduates at Hopkins with the same ability," Wang wrote.

# eTextbooks are met with divided response

EBOOKS, FROM A1

DiScala, corporate communications manager at Barnes and Noble.

While the electronic textbooks will be significantly cheaper for students, there are several catches — e-textbooks from Barnes & Noble are licensed for a limited time, usually a semester, after which the book will expire and no longer be available. According to Barnes & Noble, certain publishers will make their books available for permanent purchase after the rental period for an additional fee, while others will have to be rented again. Books purchased through this program — unless they are costlier "enhanced" versions — will also be subject to printing and copying restrictions at the publisher's discretion. Furthermore, the current Barnes & Noble NOOK-Study eBook program is not compatible with e-reader devices such as Kindles, iPads or even B&N's own NOOK, limiting its market to those who are comfortable reading textbooks from a computer screen.

I believe that eBooks are an inferior technology. I don't think they offer the combination of note-taking ability and ease of use that you can get [from a regular book].

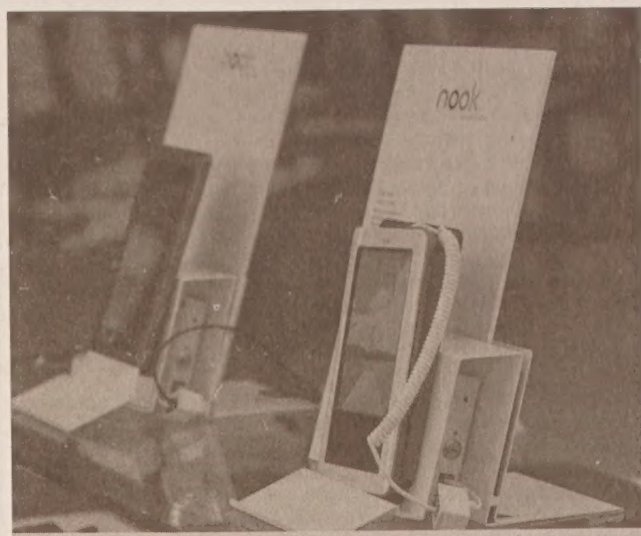
—JESSE ROSENTHAL,  
ENGLISH PROFESSOR

Many merchants offer less odious terms of licensing but some conditions will most likely still apply to eBook sales no matter where you buy them. "It is a wild west in terms of what restrictions publishers do," said Margaret Burri, head of research services at the MSE Library. Though it is possible that ex-

treme digital rights management rules might be toned down as eBooks become more widespread, for now they remain an obstacle between readers and eBooks.

Despite the limitations in its current incarnation, e-textbooks still offer undeniable advantages over traditional textbooks including searchability and the possibility of rich media content integrated in the book. With eBooks, it is also easy to organize your notes and carry all your reference material with you. The portability of electronic books convinced Austin Baird, a junior mechanical engineering major, of their virtues. "If the prices were lower than a paper textbook, I'd go for it," Baird said. "Especially if it is a book I won't have to come back to after the semester," he added.

Professors, however, are less enthusiastic. While he said he didn't forbid them in his class, Dr. Jesse Rosenthal, a professor in the English department and an expert in the application of computer technology to the humanities, admitted that he wasn't particularly eager to see e-textbooks in his classroom. "I believe that eBooks are an inferior technology. I don't think they offer the combination of note-taking ability and ease of use that you can get [from a regular book]," Rosenthal said. He conceded that it could also just be a matter of personal preferences. "I just personally have a problem reading eBooks the same way as I [would read] books



MATTHEW LI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Hopkins' Barnes and Noble features a corner specifically dedicated to Nooks.

on paper, so my opinion might be influenced by that," Rosenthal said.

The surge in e-textbooks serves to broaden the possibilities of pages filled with video, 3D and other forms of content that could serve as useful study aids. Unfortunately, textbooks purchased through the NOOK-Study program don't take advantage of these capabilities of the medium to offer enhanced features like interactivity and animation. For now, they seem to be limited to being a faithful copy of their printed versions, their advantage being the price alone. It won't be easy to justify renting an e-textbook exclusively based on price either as the costs of many electronic rentals actually approach that of buying a permanent paper copy. For instance, the current edition of *Physics: A Strategic Approach* costs \$175 on Amazon with the used version going for as low as \$114. The price for a semes-

ter's rental of the NOOKStudy version? \$106. Similarly, Levay's *Human Sexuality* costs \$76 if purchased new on Amazon and \$58 for the used version. Expect to be charged \$73 for a B&N eBook rental.

Costs aside, there is clearly a sense in the marketplace that the industry is shifting.

"We are one hundred percent behind it," DiScala said of the push toward e-textbooks, while clarifying that the decision to make books available in the new format is completely up to individual publishers. There are only a few textbooks in the JHU bookstore currently available in electronic form, though more could follow soon. She doesn't expect traditional textbooks to be phased out, however. "Our focus is not on any one particular format. We feel that there are always going to be needs for books to be available in different formats, and we will be there to serve those needs," she said.

## New institute to fill gaps in JHU environmental curriculum

ENVIRONMENTAL, FROM A1

conservation, the second research and academic-focused and the third dealing with community relationships or how Hopkins students and faculty could work to benefit Baltimore by working with community groups.

One of the recommendations of the task force was to create some sort of umbrella entity that would help oversee all the different types of activities going on.

This entity would be expanded from just being concerned with climate change to looking at sustainability more broadly. Thus, the idea of creating the institute was born.

Hobbs explained that while Hopkins has a tradition of individual faculty members having great ideas that grow into research groups there was no means of these research groups working together.

"What it means is you get these excellent research groups all over the place thinking about how they can coordinate to address a problem that requires skills from many disciplines," Hobbs said.

According to Hobbs E2SHI was created to fill these gaps. "What the institute is trying to do is to break down the walls between disciplines and get people working together from differ-

ent departments, to get different schools to respond to research opportunities to put together curricula and to have undergrads and grads respond to the new needs of sustainability," he stated.

Deans of Krieger, Whiting and Bloomberg signed a charter for E2SHI this past fall outlining the institute's plan for the next five years.

While the institute focuses heavily on research, it also has plans for courses.

"We've put out a call for proposals for student fellowships for our students that are interested in working on these interdisciplinary issues on sustainability and we've also put out a call for seed grants," Parker said.

"We'd like to do more on the educational side of things like getting sustainability issues into more classes," she added.

"For example, if there's a statistics class, maybe we could work

with interested statistics faculty to develop some case studies that have some relevancy to sustainability so students could learn both the statistics and sustainability at the same time," Parker said.

Hobbs added that the institute will not only coordinate curricula, but also identify where there are holes and needs for more course offerings. "Or coordinate between departments that could be a good major," he said.

"We're not going to offer courses or hire more faculty, but in terms of faculty we may help identify needs."

—BEN HOBBS,  
DIRECTOR OF E<sup>2</sup>SHI

No new faculty members will

be hired specifically for E2SHI and as a virtual institute no new buildings will be built to house the institute.

Parker explained that the institute doesn't really need a building.

"We're kind of very spread out; the point is to integrate a lot of university's actions, education, research, etc. to focus on these multidisciplinary issues," Parker said.

Hobbs similarly emphasized the lack of an official building as increasing effectiveness of facilitating coordination among schools.

"I'm not interested in creating an empire; I'm interested in seeing great stuff happening among the schools," Hobbs said.

While the institute's opening was officially announced by President Daniels last spring, it only began working as an institute this past fall.

E2SHI's big kickoff event is April 20th from 3-5 p.m. Daniels and others will be speaking and announcing the new institute.

Hobbs stated that Kathleen Hogan, the director of the Climate Protection Partnerships Division of the U.S. EPA, who created the Energy Star Program, will be speaking.

## CORRECTIONS

In last week's article on A1, "Black History Month features inspiring speakers," it was incorrectly stated that Au'Sha Washington is the Chair of Black History month. She is in fact the co-chair and shares the position.

In last week's article on A1, "President Daniels speaks at fifth Fireside Chat," the fireside chat was incorrectly called the fifth Fireside Chat when it is the fourth.

In last week's sex column on A9, the graphic was miscredited. It was drawn by Caroline Bleggi and not Anne Faber.

*The News-Letter* regrets these errors.

## Online Bookkeeper Wanted

Adelaide Engineering Services is currently looking for a reliable hardworking bookkeeper/customer rep to work with the company. Part Time Position, work within flexible hours Monday through Friday, must be above 21 years, understand & speak English fluently with computer experience.

For more information, contact Stephen Tindall at [stephentindall20001@gmail.com](mailto:stephentindall20001@gmail.com).



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# FAS broadcasts Cady Coleman's speech from International Space Station

FAS, FROM A1  
composition as part Russian, part American-European, and part Japanese.

The various modules were built by differing nations and contain various experiments. The station and its equipment is divided daily amongst the six astronauts that inhabit the station in order to run their experiments.

Coleman gave a tour of various modules of the ISS. She showed the equipment that controls the robotic arm of the station, which she is the main operator of, and the entryway to the airlock, which was lined with spacesuits.

As the operator of the robotic arm, Coleman is tasked with docking supply ships to different parts of the station to create room to allow multiple ships to dock.

She showed the exercise equipment that included a treadmill and a multi-purpose weight machine.

The astronauts are required to exercise for two hours a day to combat boneless and other health problems caused by microgravity.

She then showed one of the most important pieces of equipment on the station: the bathroom.

A passing thought to those blessed with indoor plumbing, the bathroom is treated with the utmost seriousness on the station.

"If one of the toilets breaks, everyone stops what they're doing to fix it," Coleman said. "There are only two on the station. And two is only one more than one. And one is only one more than none."

Coleman then introduced her favorite part of the station: the Cupola. A dome-like structure with windows, the Cupola allows astronauts a view of Earth and of space.

When Coleman brought the camera up to the window and the video showing the Earth from orbit started streaming, the entire audience paused. Eyes widened. Jaws dropped. Those with cameras quickly took several photos.

Over the course of the next hour, the crowd was treated to the sight of the bizarre look of New Zealand and South America



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Astronaut Cady Coleman addressed those who attended the FAS event from outer space. She gave a tour of the station's interior.

from orbit, the moon seen from the ISS and a sunset on the ISS.

The audience was stunned by the experience. Watching Coleman glide effortlessly through the more twisted corridors of the station inspired oohs and aahs amongst the audience.

Coleman exhibited some of the fun of low gravity by forming a floating ball of water and then drinking it out of the air.

There were moments of levity, too. When Coleman said that the astronauts filter and recycle their urine as water, a wave of shock vibrated through the room.

But the audience quickly burst into laughter when Coleman said that she and her fellow astronauts consider it the best tasting

water they've ever had.

During the Q&A session, many interesting questions were asked: some serious, such as the implications of having a space station divided amongst nations, and some less so, such as the best space joke Coleman knew.

Freshmen Griffin McCutcheon, an aspiring astronaut, was incredibly excited to be at the event.

"It was amazing to speak to an astronaut and get a response back in real time," McCutcheon said. "And it's great to get a real look at how people move through the station. Pictures don't show just how cramped the space is, yet how fluid everyone has to be to move around."

Members of the FAS board similarly felt the event to be successful.

"It takes a lot to set these things up and the turnout was great," Leah Sibener, an associate director of the FAS in charge of organizing and publicizing events. "It was a unique experience that was impressive for the students to see."

Sophomore Kieran Coleman, an executive director of the FAS and nephew of Cady Coleman, was similarly pleased.

"It was great. It was a packed crowd," he said.

FAS faced several obstacles in scheduling Cady Coleman's appearance and was only able to set the date two and half weeks ago.

"Her own schedule was a problem. She's working on numerous projects and fixing up the space station. It's a full-time job," Kieran Coleman said. "We had to get in touch with the NASA Mission Specialist to get an okay. We were working under a lot of different constraints."

However, Coleman did note that being Cady Coleman's nephew helped to quicken the process.

"It wasn't that stringent. Having your aunt as the astronaut really makes the difference and pushes everything through for you," he said.

As the chief organizer of the event, Coleman felt having his aunt as a speaker would help achieve the goals of the FAS.

"We try to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue outside of the classroom that all students will benefit from. We try to bring . . . [speakers] who people on campus want to see and who we think the Hopkins campus would benefit from seeing and hearing speak."

[Cady Coleman's] going to the International Space Station coincided with me being the director this year of FAS and I thought it was the perfect opportunity to bring to Hopkins the kind of speaker they really never get to see and the discourse they never get to have.

"[The speakers] are educational in a way classroom teachers can't be. The outside discourse is what we seek to do."

The next FAS event is Thursday, Feb. 24th at 8:00 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion. It will feature former Chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae, Franklin Raines.

The entire FAS schedule can be found online at the FAS website: [web1.johnshopkins.edu/fas](http://web1.johnshopkins.edu/fas).



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Before the video chat with the astronaut, FAS members introduced her to the audience.

## Hopkins currently holding fifth place in Recyclemania competition

RECYCLEMANIA, FROM A1  
The competition has occurred every year since 2001, but this is Hopkins's third year in participating in the competition. According to the Recyclemania website, 80 percent of participating schools had an increase in recycling during the competition.

Hopkins's recycling amount is judged in all campuses and buildings including not only Homewood, but also the medical school campus.

"In the last few years Hopkins has placed in the top four a number of times," freshman Eco-Reps Zoe Kaiser wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Fluctuation in placement may be because of the way that schools report statistics and when their breaks are. "We only know that Hopkins and other schools give out recycling statistics at different intervals; some schools do it weekly and some schools do it monthly," Kaiser said.

"It was difficult to judge in the Ivy Plus group right now because we weren't necessarily judged on the same categories because it was over different time frames; some of it was technically over intercession, so that's why the numbers changed."

As the competition progresses, the Eco-Reps are trying to determine how many students recycle and where recycling bins exist.

"All of the Eco-Reps went to every building on campus and surveyed them for recycling bins and asked anyone we saw how recycling was in that building," Kaiser said.

"We're planning to compile that into a more comprehensive document and present it at a later date," Kaiser said. "Right now, we're trying to get a feel for how easy it is to recycle on campus."

In previous years, the various dorms have participated in recycling competitions.

There most likely will not be a competition between dorms this

semester because it is difficult to get specific data and statistics from each building.

"Since we've had some difficulty starting the dashboards, viewing screens, and we've had difficulty gathering and maintaining the statistics on how much recycling each building does, we're not positive we'll be able to do it this year, Kaiser said. "If not this year, then next semester."

Additionally, in order to promote Recyclemania, the Eco-Reps have created a Random Acts of Recycling program. If the Eco-Reps see you recycling in a public place such as the library, you will be rewarded with a prize such as a Kleen Kanteen water bottle or a free coffee.

Furthermore, Eco-Reps have put flash ads in the Recreation Center and Café Q to raise awareness throughout campus. To appeal to a larger group of students, there is also a Recyclemania Facebook event.

"The Eco-reps plan to use the Facebook event to send out periodic updates about the tournament and specifically how [Hopkins] is doing," freshman Eco-Rep Margaret Keener said.

"Lastly, the Eco-Reps are also trying to help the fraternities on campus recycle (because they currently don't), and, as I'm sure you can imagine, we make a lot of garbage with all of the cups and cans we throw away from there when they all can be recycled," wrote freshman Eco-Rep Joe Puma in an email to *The News-Letter*.

There are still seven weeks left in the competition. "With seven more weeks in the Recyclemania competition, we can easily beat our rivals," Calabrese wrote.

"Students should know what can and cannot be recycled. Their small and simple actions can help us do well in the competition and hopefully sustain better recycling practices on campus in the long run."



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

However, Puma felt that some schools may be hard to compete against.

"Part of the problem is that other schools spent a significant amount on making themselves more environmentally friendly and thus are harder to compete against," Puma wrote.

"Another problem is many students are unaware that the competition is happening in the first place, which makes them less likely to be conscious about their choices as much as if they did know."

Many students do seem to be unaware of the competition going on.

Freshmen Emily Markert and James Sabra both explained that they knew that Recyclemania was going on from the Facebook event, but they did not know what it was.

Kaiser felt that Hopkins students need to become more aware about not only recycling,

but also environmental issues in general.

"Overall, I would say that Hopkins students are less aware than other students," she said. "For example, not many students know every single item that can be recycled and how to recycle that item including numerically on plastics and glassware. Personally, I don't feel that students are up-to-date on environmental issues in the news or current environmental bills on the table," she said.

She also felt that Hopkins needs to become a greener school.

"It would be helpful if Hopkins could be more specific about what numbers of plastic students can recycle, and also [if they] implemented composting in more buildings than just coffee shops right now," Kaiser said.

"In addition, I think it's unhelpful that the FFC has compostable cups if there's no place to compost them within easy access."

Calabrese felt that student involvement in environmental issues is growing, but that they should be more aware of what exactly to recycle.

"In terms of recycling, it starts with understanding. Reduce, then reuse, then recycle. We too often think of recycling as an ultimate sustainable task. Recycling

is good, but many materials such as paper and plastic can only be recycled a few times before they are no longer useful," she wrote. "This means that even if we recycled all of our waste, natural resources would still need to be mined and harvested to feed the supply chain," Calabrese wrote.

"Always remember, reduce-reuse-recycle is an order of processes," she continued. "Reducing the amount of stuff you use should be the first priority, then reusing materials and finally recycling everything that cannot be reused."

Keener explained that there are many students who are self-aware about how their actions are affecting the environment, and that there are many opportunities for students to get involved on campus.

"Eco-Reps is running Recyclemania and Powershift," Keener said.

"Additionally, Students for Environmental Action is a general awareness club that holds awesome events, and Real Food at Hopkins focuses primarily on the food system and our own organic garden," she said.

"However, the issue is more about just getting more students and faculty more aware of current environmental issues that our generation is fac-

ing," Keener said.

The Eco-Reps stress that small changes can make a huge difference.

"The best thing to do to improve our ranking is to first cut down on waste, that is, let there not be any reason to recycle in the first place," Keener said.

She further explained that small steps, like using a thermos instead of grabbing a to-go cup and thus eliminating waste production in the first place will result in the biggest improvements. Secondly, students must recycle more.

"A lot of times recyclable materials (especially cans and bottles) end up in the trash just because, 'oh, the trash can is right there' or convenience and that sort of thing," Keener said.

"The most impactful thing that individuals can do is be a role model. People learn from their peers," Calabrese wrote.

"If you want other people to take care of the environment, then lead the way," Calabrese further wrote.

"Demonstrate sustainable behavior everyday and the people around you will notice, learn, and change their behaviors, too," Calabrese continued.

"Recycle a can and encourage your friends to. We do something and then we talk about it . . . this is how we shift culture."

## SECURITY ALERTS

On Feb. 20th at 6:00 p.m., an unknown male left the store without paying for two prepaid cell phones taken from the second floor level of Barnes & Noble. Baltimore Police responded. Investigation continuing.



NEWS & FEATURES

# Healthy food at JHU

This week I have decided to mix things up a bit. Instead of reviewing a local Baltimore restaurant, I want to shed some light on a promising, exciting new student-run club: Real Food JHU. Freshman Raychel Santo and junior Ian Osborn launched the club as co-presidents in the fall.

According to the Center for Social Concern's website, the club "is a student-run chapter of the national Real Food Challenge movement committed to bringing local, sustainable, humane and fair food to the Johns Hopkins campus and the surrounding Baltimore area." In short, Real Food JHU is a sub-set of the national Real Food Challenge group, which promotes healthy eating alongside environmentalism and fair labor. On the Homewood campus, Real Food JHU is attempting to do just that.

"We want to increase students' awareness about the food that they are eating and where it is coming from," Santo said. "It's about making more conscious decisions with your fork."

The group recently co-sponsored an event at Nolans with Dining Services and the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. Kim O'Donnel, a celebrity chef from Seattle, demonstrated a recipe which consisted of braised winter squash with bok choy and black bean sauce and coconut rice. She also made six other entrees.

The event helped promote "Meatless Mondays," a national campaign based on reducing the over-consumption of meat.

It was Osborn who became interested in Real Food's mission after starting a garden. A large aspect of the club's mission is to promote locally and organically grown produce, Santo said. Encouraging local food purchasing is very much at the heart of the matter. Their theory is that if one supports local farmers, more often than not the labor will be deemed "fair" and the produce not picked from a large corporately run factory-esque farm.

Osborn's farm has already

grown over 200 pounds of produce since last fall, and they donate it to Campus Kitchens. Splendidly delicious produce picked right out of a garden behind the Center for Social Concern for a good cause? Sounds pretty good to me. As Santo put it, "when you grow your own food, you have a greater appreciation for food in general."



Liz Goodstein  
"Tasty Bites"

Santo and the club's mission is clear: People need to re-learn what is truly healthy while remaining environmentally friendly and socially aware. She and Real Food JHU hope to promote this cause by bridging food sustainability and nutrition.

"We want to bring awareness [while also connecting] all the different facets of Hopkins," she said. "Graduate students and faculty are doing work in sustainable food too."

When I asked Santo about on-campus dining, she did not answer in the negative tone I expected. In fact, her response was quite the contrary. When one is in the FFC, for example, "be creative," she said. "Combine things you might not think of. All the resources are there. If a soup is too thick to be a true soup, put it on greens and you have a [nicely dressed] salad."

I applaud Real Food JHU's efforts. Perhaps even more impressive than its mission is the club's pragmatic and fast-paced execution of all it hopes to accomplish. This club recently launched, and it has already co-sponsored multiple successful events in the same vein as Chef O'Donnel's event.

As a believer in farmer's markets and locally grown produce, I find this "bridging" of "sustainability," health, environmentalism and social awareness of an entire workforce inspiring. With all it has already accomplished in a few short months, I look forward to seeing what Real Food JHU conquers next.

If you are interested in joining or learning more about Real Food JHU contact Raychel Santo at rsanto1@jhu.edu.

# The beauty of not over-planning your trip

There's something to be said for spontaneity.

When it comes to traveling, planning has its place, but over-planned, tightly-scheduled trips sometimes feel like work rather than play. Throwing plans out the window has led to some of the most fun-filled, unexpected trips that I have ever taken. Exciting experiences, I am convinced, center on the places and people — not deadlines or timetables.

What makes travel so memorable are the people you meet along the way. Wherever you have the option, opting to stay at a backpacking hostel with a common room (rather than an impersonal hotel) may lead to new acquaintances and interesting conversations — you'll run into people from every corner of the world, people who most likely share a common interest in the culture and area surrounding you.

Reading hostel reviews on a Web site like [www.hostelworld.com](http://www.hostelworld.com) can help you select the right hostel for your interests — small vs. large, party hostel vs. quiet sanctuary — you get the idea. For those among us who like to just show up, it's easy to find available, affordable bookings on this site on short notice.

On my last trip, I chose to stay at a quiet, funky hostel away from the tourist hubs, and ended up bunking with and hiking around a tropical island with four good-natured hippies from three different continents. You don't always know what you'll come across, however; at the same hostel I also encountered

a fellow traveler who claimed he was a modern-day Viking and vigorously attempted to refute all of the negative stereotypes associated with Vikingdom. I returned from my trip with some wonderful memories and amusing anecdotes, as well as a word of warning to my readers that you may not want to pursue friendships with every random backpacker you meet.

I am also a huge fan of the Web site [www.couchsurfing.org](http://www.couchsurfing.org), which connects travelers in need of a couch to crash on with couch-owners around the world. It's especially helpful for traveling in the U.S., where hostel culture lags behind that of, say, Europe and Latin America. Hosts are often friendly, outgoing people (who come with references and evaluations from past couchsurfers) who can help you navigate around a new place and give you insider tips on what to do or see at your destination. My friends who have couchsurfing in the past have had such positive experiences that they often become hosts themselves, although offering up a couch is not necessary to join the couchsurfing community. If you show up in an unfamiliar place, you can also use the website to connect with fellow travelers for coffee or a joint travel excursion.

There's also something to be said for traveling solo. I love traveling alone — I can set my own pace and do what I want to do without limits. Small groups (two or three people max) of like-

minded people are also a good way to go, especially if your destination is less than secure.

Avoid large travel groups, however, at all costs. Even if the group members are close friends, most of the time groups are stress-inducing, tear-your-hair-out logistical nightmares. Hostels, restaurants, public transport, cabs, you name it, have difficulty accommodating large groups on short notice, and traveling with groups means less flexibility and slow decision-making. Travel "groupthink" becomes more common — it's much easier to get swept along into doing whatever activity you perceive that the group wants to do, and miss out on pursuing your personal interests.

The same rule applies to group tours, cruises and resort vacation packages; save the tame spa vacations for after you've had your first hip replacement. Though they require less planning, these options are costly for a college budget and overwhelming in the programming options they offer.

You get a more intimate view of the place you are experiencing when you are away from a suffocating mob of rowdy tourists. As for resorts and spas, why bother traveling to a destination if you remain in the confines of a hotel compound for days on end?

If it is adventure you want, getting out on your own and exploring off-the-main drags of a destination can make all the difference in getting to know the place you are in (disclaimer: this

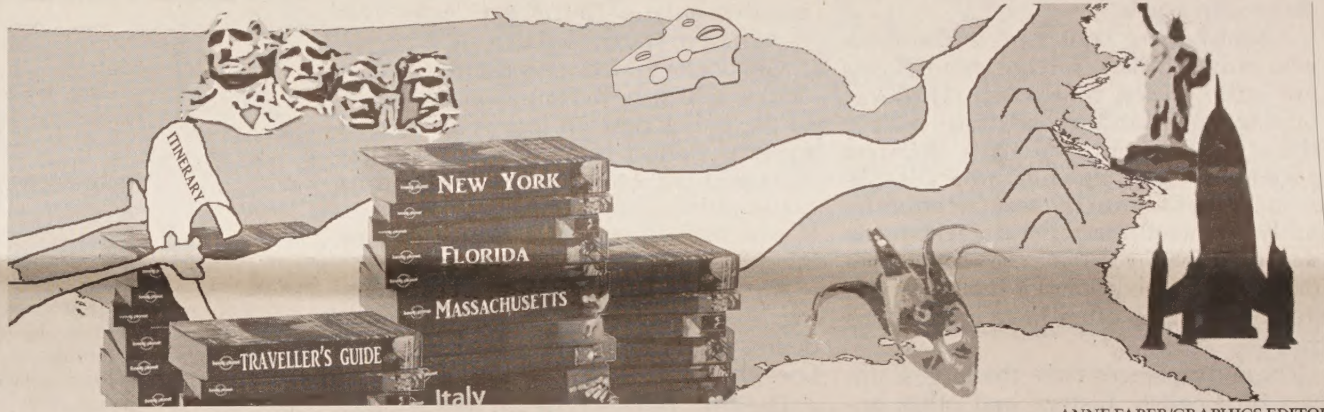
doesn't mean I think walking down dark allies of crime-ridden cities in a solo effort to get off the beaten track is a good idea. I advocate using common sense and staying alert when traveling).

When scoping out eateries, peek in and look at the patrons before sitting down — if the place is popular and filled with locals, rather than camera-toting sightseers, chances are you've stumbled upon a good meal. If you're a college student, you can stretch your budget by picking up a few meals from a market or a street vendor or by cooking for yourself rather than dining in a restaurant. Contacting friends, or friends of friends, familiar with your destination can lead to some great recommendations or even a place to crash for a night.

Some readers may be resistant or uncomfortable with what I am advocating here: getting off the beaten path and embracing the unexpected. Never fear; for those among us who thrive on order rather than chaos, I recommend using [www.tripit.com](http://www.tripit.com), which allows you to forward confirmation emails for flights, accommodations, appointments and other information to a free personal account.

Tripit automatically consolidates everything into a neat, printable itinerary compete with maps, phone and tracking numbers and contact information; you can also share your travel plans with fellow travelers, friends and relatives.

For the less-than-organized among us, me included, this site is a life-saver. The important thing to remember, however, is that the best parts of a trip are often the parts that aren't found on any itinerary.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

# Rethinking the gentleman's must-have: The necktie

Keeping it classy without looking like your dad

Ties have been the finishing touch to a perfect ensemble since the days of the Thirty Years' War; however, back then it was commonly referred to as a cravat. Over the centuries and after the prideful application of Edward VII (The Duke of Windsor's grandfather), the most common sophisticated knots we use are the Full or Half-Windsor knots when tying ties.

There are other popular types, such as the bowtie, but for the sake of sanity, I'll be addressing the idea of neckwear in general. So, with the history lesson behind us, let's delve into some tips for tie-wearing.

The most important thing, more so than anything else I might mention, is that you must pay attention to the tie's colors. Ties must compliment the shirt (and vest if you are wearing one). If you are wearing a navy dress shirt, it would be futile to wear a tie of the same shade — a tie should stand out.

However, you don't want it to be too explosive or contradictory; a bright yellow tie with the navy shirt might be too much.

Remember, the tie is one of the pieces of clothing others notice the most; the tie is right in the face of whomever you are conversing with, so it will most certainly be something stared at for some periods of time.

The second most important category for wearing a tie involves the actual tying of the tie. Occasionally, if a tie is either too short to begin with or is tied hurriedly, the tie will come up short on the stomach.

A tie should never be above the belly button; preferably, it should descend to the belt/waist. The easiest ways to ensure enough length are to check the

overall length of the tie before you purchase it, and when tying, to make sure the wide end is long enough to be the correct length once the knot has been tied. If you happen to only have a tie that is too short, you could wear a sport jacket to cover the tie, but try not to rely on this all the time; as mentioned in my last article, you might get warm and want to remove the jacket.

Another thing to pay attention to is the knot itself. The Full Windsor is hard to pull off unless you have a thick enough tie to maintain the knot. I've noticed that most of my ties deviate to the Half-Windsor, which is smaller and seems a tad askew. I've personally found one tie that I've managed the Full Windsor on, but to my chagrin, that's

it. It's best to stick with simpler knots; although I did not mention it because I don't find it too sophisticated, the most common knot is the four-in-hand knot.

There are countless other knots; each has a different meaning to express. One knot I find interesting but have never worn is the Ediety, or Atlantic knot, which is noticeably tied backwards.

What about pattern? I find any pattern looks good. There are far too many to mention entirely, but my favorite are paisley ties. I like ties with swirls, sheen and style. Symmetry is nice, but not required. I also lean toward blue ties. One pattern I don't care for is geometric-dot neat ties, which have dots or studs evenly placed

on the tie.

They don't have enough "going on" for my tastes. Silk is definitely the best material for a tie; just don't get food on it. The sheen is an added perk and is something else that attracts the eye to the tie. I asked a few female friends what they notice most in ties, and sheen came up quite frequently. Take note, gentlemen.

There are several accessories that accompany ties. One is the tie clip. These can be simplistic or extravagant, but either way, they help keep the tie ends together

and give the attire's finishing touch a finishing touch of its own.

The second item is a pocket square. This applies only to suit jackets and blazers, but it represents a whole other level of class. The pocket

square follows two rules: it complements the tie and matches the vest (if applicable). Silk pocket squares are a must, otherwise you might as well take a handkerchief, sneeze into it, and then stuff it into your breast pocket.

It's time to talk about tie prices. They can be very expensive, but can be frequently found on sale at major department stores. When new designs come out, the old designs go on sale for as much as 80 percent off. A cheap quality tie goes for a regular price of twenty dollars or more; thirty being the best of the cheapies.

Don't get me wrong though, these are still very nice ties; Stuffed Essentials and Arrow are two of my favorite brands within this price range. Jerry Garcia ties

also fall into this range; I mention them only because they are very vibrant in color and design, but too much to be worn well (or safely) with colored dress shirts. I find that they look better as works of art than pieces of attire. You can buy these ties on sale in the cheap range, but be sure that you have something they go with first.

It saddens me that the Hopkins Barnes and Noble doesn't have a tie with the Hopkins seal on it. I can picture a Carolina Blue or Black tie with the Hopkins seal in the center of the wide end of the tie.

The only tie that looks nice on the bookstore website is the silk tie with repeating "Johns Hopkins" side-by-side all over it.

The others seem too lackluster, or are sports-related (Hopkins Football tie). I don't like how the book store, or whoever supplies them, focuses primarily on sports apparel (excluding the sweatshirts).

When I graduate, retire and (hopefully) have money to donate to Hopkins, I'd like to be able to buy a nice tie to wear on formal occasions. Maybe I'd have to see what the patrons at the Hopkins Club have. Oh, well.

It's about that time, gang! Pop quiz — what are the things women look for in ties?

This was a trick question, I asked female friends about all of these topics, and I found that they notice almost all the highlighted attributes in ties; in fact, I added the tie clip part to this article only because it was brought up so much.

So, as I said, take note. But even if you aren't trying to impress a lady friend, you can always know you are looking neat and trim with the right tie and the way you wear it.

# Stressed out? Get a date

Now that midterms are starting I'm sure everyone has noticed a sharp decline in their social lives. Since our teachers don't seem to realize that we need sleep at some point during the week, I know they won't rate having a life very high on their lists either. So now that school work and time spent in the library are eating away at our normal lives, what hope do we have for a love life?

Mostly it just comes down to having a little creative thinking in spending time with your partner.

The easiest way to spend some time together and balance school work is... wait for it... to do it with the other person! Tada. I realize it's not the most fun thing to do but it at least gets the two of you some time together and maybe an incentive to study harder (or quicker, if you have plans afterwards). Sometimes having a study partner even if you're not taking any of the same classes works to your advantage. Just think that having them there is kind of like have your reward right in front of you. Even if you don't really talk very much while studying sometimes it's nice to just have the other person there as a comforting presence when you get stressed out.

Not everyone wants to study together though — some of us would probably get totally distracted by the other person. Making out is, believe it or not, not an effective studying technique. So trying to find something to do together on campus can be a little bit of a challenge, especially something fun. But even during midterms, every-

one needs to take a study break at some point. Try going to the rock wall in the fitness center together or even just sit down and grab a coffee. There are plenty of extracurricular nighttime events on campus, so if you do want a night together there's no need to go far.

Also, try grabbing a quick dinner together, whether its

Katelin Witzke  
"Beyond Sex-Ed"



home cooked or take out. It always works as a relaxing way to spend time together. For a healthy relationship you sometimes need those nights together. I know it can be tough

with roommates and dorms. Try alternating whose place you spend nights at. That way no one's roommates get too annoyed with you. But do try to spend a few nights together a week. Even if they are the week-ends, those nights are important. For those of you in an intimate relationship, a certain amount of stress builds up just from the lack of a healthy sex life. If you have a certain level of intimacy that you've become used to with your partner then suddenly missing that can be distracting.

Whatever you do don't let the stress of classes put a damper on your relationship. Remember that both of you have to deal with being overworked from classes. Your relationship shouldn't be more stress added on top of everything else. You don't have to see each other all the time — just focus on using your time together to relax.



THE JOHNS HOPKINS  
NEWS-LETTER  
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIALS

Not so Noble Barnes: The cost of reading

As any college student will tell you, buying textbooks is often a frustrating process. Professors assign many books and it is not uncommon for students to pay over 500 dollars each semester for textbooks alone.

In the past few years many new initiatives have emerged to reduce the cost of buying textbooks, but some are significantly better than others.

The high prices that Barnes and Noble places on textbooks only contribute to the problem. Many students will inevitably buy all of their books there for convenience, and some of those are likely unaware that other, better options exist. Barnes and Noble is naturally free to charge whatever prices they please, but cheaper alternatives do exist, and *The News-Letter* feels that all students should be informed about these choices.

One such option is to buy online. Websites like Amazon.com offer books—both used and new—at much cheaper prices than our local bookstore. Textbooks can also be cheaper outside the United States where “international editions” of common textbooks can be almost 75 percent cheaper than new American books.

Usually these books are intended for sale only within a foreign country, but are still written in English. However, buying international editions can be risky. Sometimes they have different page numbers, problem numbers or other variations within the text (an effort by publishers to undermine domestic sale of international editions). The same goes for buying old editions of books, which are cheaper and often have only minor changes.

These differences have the largest impact on English, history and other humanities classes in which professors refer to specific page numbers and often prefer that all of their students own the same editions.

Whether domestic or international, half.com and parent site ebay.com are two reliable places to buy reasonably priced books.

It is also advisable to compare online prices. BigWordsco.com and Alibris.com can help students find the cheapest textbooks across retailers and renters. These sites aggregate many of

the cheapest websites and help locate the best options. Often, they even include shipping prices and advertise the condition of the books. Additionally, aggregators often inform shoppers of promotions or coupons that could apply to their orders. Similar sites include: DealOz.com, AddAll.com and BookFinder.com.

For books you will never want to look at again after the semester is over, renting is much more economical (as long as you take good care of the books). Rental sites operate like Netflix, and the most well known is probably Chegg.com. Other sites, like BookRenter.com and CampusBookRentals.com provide free shipping. There’s even ValoreBooks.com, which guarantees that it will match any rental price found on another site.

One can also turn to eTextbooks, which sells digital books that can be read on Kindles, iPhones, iPads or even your laptop. If you have a Gmail account, you can easily buy digital books from Google and read them through your Google account. For e-books that don’t expire, try CafeScribe.com. It should be noted that individuals are usually only permitted to print less than half of the book.

Get books for free on sites like Google books, which now feature many books in the public domain that you can read for free. Project Gutenberg is a similar site which aims to scan and distribute as many public domain books as possible. If you want free books for Kindles or iPhones, check out ManyBooks.net.

Also, keep in mind that buying or renting a book can be even cheaper if students split the costs with a friend or trade books.

The final option is to sell books back. Regardless of how you bought books, capitalize on your purchase and reap a profit at the end of class. Using Amazon or Ebay, you can sell your books to other people online. Even if you have to buy a book from Barnes and Noble, make up for the higher price by selling it online.

The price of a Hopkins education is prohibitive for many students as it is, and textbooks should not add additional burden to students if they can help it.

Anne Faber



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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to [chiefs@jhnewsletter.com](mailto:chiefs@jhnewsletter.com) for inclusion in that Thursday’s issue. All letters received become property of *The News-Letter* and cannot be returned. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author’s name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS  
NEWS-LETTER  
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY  
[HTTP://WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM](http://www.jhnewsletter.com)

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The Gatehouse  
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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of *The News-Letter*.

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the Thursday of publication. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 5,200.

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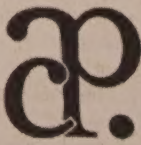
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# OPINIONS

*With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.*

**Ian Scott**

## Taking protest pointers from Egypt in Wisconsin

We Americans usually take for granted all of the comforts and liberties associated with a developed, democratic nation. It goes without saying that we are far better off than the populations of most countries around the world. However, that does not mean that the problems that plague third world countries could not happen here.

Take for example, the riots that have shaken many Middle Eastern countries, most notably Egypt. In Egypt, an enraged citizenry rose up in protest to an authoritarian leader whom they felt was curtailing freedoms. Certainly this type of oppression could never happen in the United States, right?

On the contrary, the current protests in Wisconsin illustrate not only that Americans have reasons to protest, but also that they are willing to do so to protect their rights from overbearing politicians, the very same causes that are driving masses to the streets across the Middle East.

Representative Paul Ryan even stated, "It's like Cairo has moved to Madison." While this statement does not reflect the differences in the scale of the two protests, it does capture the similarities in their causes and development.

In order to understand the Wisconsin protests, it is imperative to understand Scott Walker. Walker has been the governor of Wisconsin for all of six weeks and is already causing a stir. Perhaps in order to appease his wealthy benefactors, including the billionaire Koch brothers, Walker has been advocating, and implementing tax cuts.

While this would irk left-leaning Wisconsin natives on its own, for the most part tax cuts are not a hugely inflaming policy worthy of instigating protests.

The more pressing issue is that Wisconsin is in a tight fiscal position, facing a \$137 million deficit in the current state budget. However, Walker did not forego the tax cuts in order to balance the budget.

In fact, he did quite the opposite. He intends to make public workers pay more for their benefits, which will reduce their take-home wage by seven percent. As if that were not enough, Walker also hopes to end collective bargaining in Wisconsin, which will inevitably lead to worse representation for union workers.

Walker claims that he was motivated to make the cuts to health care spending and pension spending for public workers only by the need to close the bud-

get. However, he is motivated more by a desire to gain control over the state's political system. If he only had financial motives, he would not have issued tax cuts. Even very liberal or conservative politicians have to share the burden when a tight fiscal year leads to a potential deficit.

Walker's manner of handling the situation indicates that he was trying to undermine the Democrats. In response to these aggressively conservative steps by the Republican governor and legislature of the state, Wisconsin Democrats have gone on a self-imposed exile to Illinois. They have done this for a couple reasons.

First, it raises the profile of this power struggle, which would not necessarily have become national news without the Democrats storming out. Second, by refusing to show up to the budget hearing, the abstaining Democrats are preventing the chamber, which is Republican led, from taking up the bill.

The Democrats also stalled by adding over 100 amendments to the bill. These tactics may seem like the cheap way for the Democrats to get what they want, but in reality there is nothing cheap about it.

Yes, Wisconsin is in a tough financial situation, but it was in large part self-inflicted. Furthermore, the Wisconsin Democrats are standing up against what they believe to be an unjust cut in pay for public workers.

Similarly to the Middle Eastern protests that have rocked the world, active, concerned citizens in Wisconsin marched to the capital in Madison, demanding that the public workers' pay not be cut. Many were even holding signs that likened the situation to the Egyptian uprisings.

While it is dismaying to see an infringement on Americans' rights like the banning of collective bargaining, it is encouraging to see that Americans are willing to stand up for what they believe in just as the Egyptians, Tunisians and Libyans are.

The one crucial step for the Americans to deviate from the Egyptian protests is with the violence. In America there has been a history of labor strife including violent riots like the Homestead Strike where Andrew Carnegie called in the mercenary Pinkertons to quell the striking workers. What is crucial during these protests is that things do not get out of control like they would have 100 years ago.

While the incidents in Wisconsin will not be remembered by posterity nearly as much as those in Egypt, they definitely will play a role in reforming strong-arming in politics and set a good precedent for active citizens who want to stand up for what they believe in.

*Ian Scott is a freshman International Studies and Economics double major from New York, NY. He is the Opinions editor for The News-Letter.*

**Michael Nakan**

## Health and Wellness: a picture of bureaucracy

Freshmen and other first year students may not realize it, but going to the Health and Wellness Center used to actually do something.

That's right! In addition to the current service of desperately trying to dodge giving out any sort of antibiotic or other expensive drug which is partially covered under University mandated insurance, and instead giving you a packet of soup as a cure all for your tonsillitis, HelWell used to have the authority to excuse you from classes on days when you had a communicable illness.

Now, of course, it doesn't. The sole explanation I've heard from around campus is that professors suspected

Perhaps I am being too melodramatic here, but the fact of the matter is that it is painfully obvious that the ideology of the administration is woefully out of sync with that of HelWell and other organizations devoted to student health.

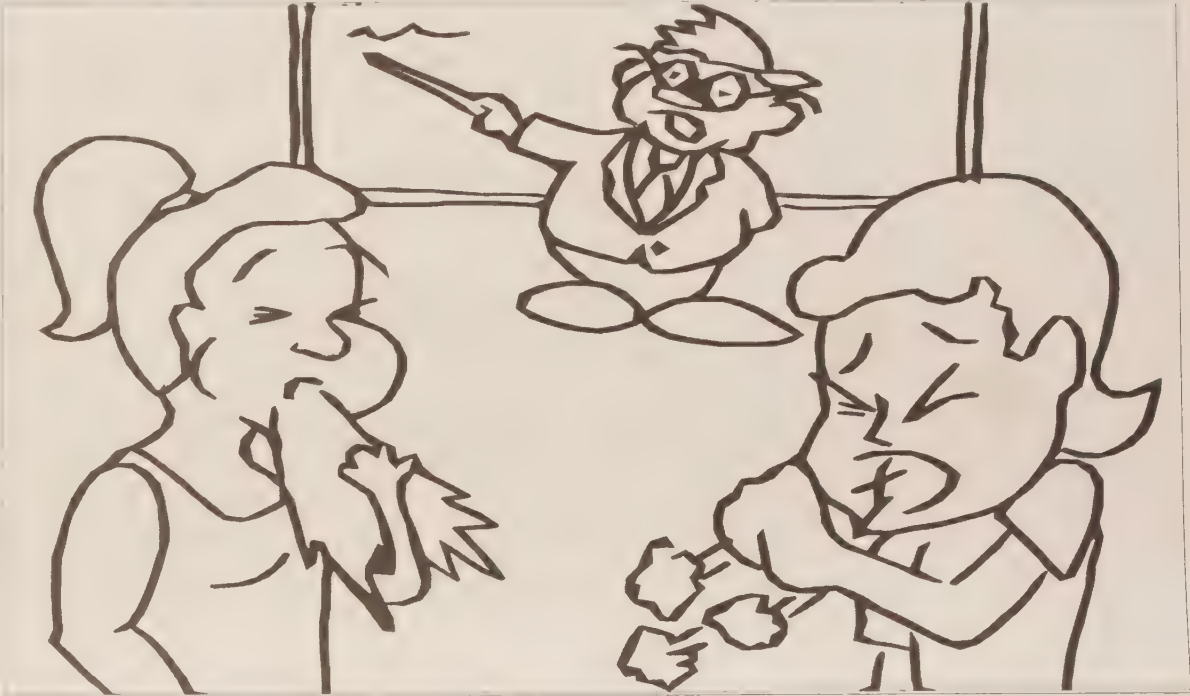
Around campus there are countless flyers, posters and flash ads designed to tell us how to dodge getting the notorious flu which floats around campus like the smell of dirty underwear around the AMRs. However, we still get teachers who inform us that we get a certain number of absences per semester (frequently as low as one or two) and that's it.

Get sick too much? Too bad. Your grade goes down.

sity student (everyone, I'm sure, slept through a class at least once in their lives), but it also creates a mantra of "I must go to class no matter what" in the minds of Hopkins students, which is not a good thing.

The knock-on effect of that is obvious: despite all the posts urging us to stay home when we feel ill, students still attend class, perpetuating the existence of the flu on our campus.

I'm not going to pretend to have all the answers. I'm only a freshman, and I have no idea how effective the system used to be or whether or not people were taking advantage of HelWell before, as the administration says (although how a college student could effectively fool a trained medi-



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

students of "faking it" to miss class — which is just about the biggest slap in the face to both the hard-working students at this school and the trained medical staff who run HelWell that I can imagine.

Was there, at some point, some kind of bizarre feeling that all the students who attended this institution were lower schoolers who idolized Calvin and Hobbes? That we just want to sit at home all day, eat ice cream and watch TV?

That the administration of the undergraduate section of the most world-renowned medical program in the entire world thought it necessary to effectively castrate and dismiss the professional opinion of the medical professionals they chose to employ on campus?

*Michael Nakan is a freshman Writing Seminars major from London, England. He is a News & Features Editor for The News-Letter.*

Take, for example, some of the language departments at Hopkins. Spanish and German Elements I, for example, meet three and four times a week respectively, but only allow three absences during a semester before your grade is affected — essentially saying that if you come down with the flu (an affliction which can last for two weeks and beyond), and you miss three days of classes, you're not "allowed" to get sick again for the rest of the semester.

Not only is this policy not conducive to the well-being of a disorientated freshman who may find it difficult adjusting to the self-led life of a univer-

cal practitioner is beyond me). But I can definitely see the negative knock-on effects from this policy, which does absolutely nothing to reduce the stress and pressure cooker nature of this school which Hopkins seems intent on dissolving.

Hopkins needs to trust its students and its medical staff. The current system creates (quite literally) an unhealthy system for students to attend classes in. At a place like Hopkins, where academic honesty

is highly valued and academics themselves are paramount, forcing students to go to class when they are sick is an ineffective policy that needs to be changed.

**Despite all the posts urging us to stay home when we feel ill, students still attend class, perpetuating the existence of the flu on our campus.**

**Omar Qureshi**

## Private military contractors undermine the success of the American military abroad

PMCs operate outside the realm of public sentiment and alienate occupied populations

Private Military Contractors (PMCs) have destroyed America's ability to fight and win the Iraq and Afghan wars. Without deference to rules and basic decency, most PMCs ought to be considered nothing more than criminals for hire. It is time that the government stops hiring them.

PMCs are companies that are contracted by the Department of Defense to conduct various missions in foreign countries.

Since they are private citizens, employees of PMCs are not considered part of the military. However, they often perform military functions and are authorized to kill. They are generally more expensive than regular troops, even though, in some cases they have less experience and knowledge of war than regular troops.

Many PMC managers and directors have worked for the FBI, CIA, Department of Defense and U.S. Military. Thus, it is unsurprising that the number of military contracts issued have gone up over the course of American history.

Never before has the U.S. relied so

heavily on mercenaries. This makes sense, given PMCs' penchant for destruction.

The military knows entirely and certainly that, in order to successfully conduct a counterinsurgency, soldiers must endear themselves to a population. According to the Army Field Manual, a fundamental tenant of counterinsurgency operations is to establish security and win the hearts and minds of the locals.

PMCs are doing the very opposite. There are many reports of contractors massacring villages and shooting civilians at random.

These reports are unsurprising. Military contractors are not beholden to military law, and an American citizen cannot be tried by Afghan or Iraqi courts. Only federal courts have jurisdiction over contractors.

With that being said, it is almost impossible to gather enough evidence and credible testimony to take a contractor to trial.

Even if sufficient evidence is gathered, the law is written such that only an employee of a contracting firm is eligible for prosecution. This means that when an employee of a PMC is

fired, he is off the hook. Many contractors offer excellent severance packages, so getting fired is really not a big deal.

They are thus able to act as recklessly as they want because there are literally no consequences to their behavior.

PMCs are beholden only to their contracts. They do not care about overall strategy or keeping the peace. The contractor's sole responsibility is to complete his mission. If a contractor's mission is to get a client from point A to B, he does not care about angering the locals or killing civilians.

If the contractor sees a threat, he will shoot it. He does not care about investigating conditions on the ground or helping those in need. He cares only for fulfilling his contractual responsibility and receiving the check that comes with it.

As a result, contractors have developed what the Brookings Institution's Peter Singer calls a "protection first and last" mentality. Contractors have made it a habit to rough up anyone in their way. They often drive on the wrong side of the road, beat people at random and threateningly shoot the air as they drive

through towns.

Needless to say, contractors diminish America's reputation among Iraqis and Afghans. Locals do not distinguish between American troops and contractors.

When a PMC misbehaves, it is a reflection of American misbehavior and irresponsibility. U.S. military strategy is dependent on civilian cooperation. Yet PMCs make it extremely difficult to foster trust.

When Americans read about negative Iraqi sentiment toward the U.S., they often fail to internalize the gravity of those sentiments.

Imagine a situation in which a foreign government has taken control of Maryland. The people of Maryland still have democratic control, but the foreign government has troops on the ground. Now imagine that, on your way to class, you see foreigners in a Humvee roughing up your classmates and shooting their guns recklessly.

Now, imagine that you are in class; an angry friend tells you of how Americans shot his uncles and cousins. You have left class now, and you see an American on patrol outside your apartment building. For most people, the

natural reaction would be some combination of fear, anger and, worst of all, mistrust.

The example above is a crude and incomplete parallel to the Iraqi and Afghan experience. Nevertheless, it shows part of the reality of PMCs and the U.S. counterinsurgency.

Natives do not see the difference between soldier and contractor. They see only an occupant that has wrought havoc on their communities. They approach all Americans with skepticism and view troops as enemies, regardless of the Americans' outlook.

By and large, abuses in Iraq and Afghanistan are perpetrated by PMCs. Many supporters of PMCs argue that contractors are necessary to augment American troops. Unfortunately, the damage done by these groups is far greater than the benefits of having extra bodies on the ground.

In the world of public sentiment, appearance is everything. In the world of PMCs, it is nothing.

*Omar Qureshi is a junior International Studies and philosophy major from Monett, Mo.*



Department of Housing and Dining Services' Annual

# Off-Campus Housing Fair

Glass Pavilion - Homewood Campus

Thursday, March 3, 2011

11:00am - 2:00pm

Come and meet area Property Managers and Leasing Consultants to find a new home! Whether you are in the market for a new place or just want to see what is available in the community, this is the event for you. Featured rental properties will be representing many different areas including but not limited to: **Charles Village, Roland Park, Hamden, Mount Vernon & the Inner Harbor!**

Don't forget:

**The Neighborhood  
Open House!**

**Saturday, March 5th  
11:00am - 2:00pm**

*Visit and tour area  
commercial buildings!*

Enter to win an  
iPod Touch or a  
\$100.00 Amazon  
Gift Card!

For more information please contact the Off-Campus Housing Office  
410-516-7961 or [offcampus@hd.jhu.edu](mailto:offcampus@hd.jhu.edu)



# THE B SECTION

The Baltimore  
News-Letter

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

FEBRUARY 24, 2011

# IT'S ALIVE!

## AND STRONGER THAN WE HAVE EVER KNOWN



### SCIENCE

### PAGE B8

## ALL THE COMPUTERS IN THE WORLD COMBINED



## ONLY MATCH THE POWER OF 64 HUMAN BRAINS!

## Putty Hill

Hopkins professor's indie film hits home

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE



#### YOUR WEEKEND

Got handmade crafts? This Thursday get your fill of these trinkets at the Baltimore Convention Center for the 35th annual American Craft Council Show. Page B2.



#### SPORTS

Womens lacrosse scores another win. Take a peek at B12 for the full story.



# YOUR WEEKEND FEB. 24 - 27



COURTESY OF BALTIMORE.SHOWNBYPHOTOS.COM

Weather at Hopkins can sometimes include sudden temperature jumps into the seventies.

## Unpredictable weather is the norm in Baltimore

We all know it, but sometimes, you've got to experience it to see just how effed up Baltimore weather can be. Sure, you've had those days between summer and fall where the weather swings back into the temperatures of the passing season. You've either shivered or sweated as the weather laughed at your assumptions that weather is generally consistent.

Thanks to this past weekend, you now know for sure: Baltimore weather is bizarre. I know you're thinking that this is just climate change. First, you don't even know if climate change is real. I like to think that fundamentalist Christian church from Kansas is right: God is cooking the Earth.

In all seriousness, though, this same event happened in the early '80s in December. The temperature reached a scorching high-seventies to low-eighties.

"But Michael," you say, "that still doesn't disprove global warming." Well how about this: the record highest temperature in Baltimore was 107 degrees in July of 1934.

"Still." I'm not finished yet. Half of the record lows in Baltimore happened in the last 60 years. Plus, the record low in August, the

second hottest month in Baltimore, was set in 1986 when the temperature dropped to a frigid 52 degrees.

There you have it: Baltimore's climate disproves global warming. Suck it, Al. Although my impressive statistical analysis has disproven global warming, despite "climategate" evidence to the contrary, it is a hardened fact that Baltimore has some weird-ass weather.

According to Wikipedia, the greatest source of knowledge of all time, Baltimore lies in a subtropical humid climate zone.

### Michael Ferrante Being Baltimorean

"Humid" is the key word in this classification. I'm sure none of you have forgotten the abomination unto the Lord that is a Baltimore summer. You freshman will get a taste soon enough. When you step out of your house in July in Baltimore, it is like stepping right back into your shower. You are assaulted with nearly unbearable moisture.

Back before the days of air conditioning, the rich would take a day trip to their summer homes outside the city in Roland Park. You read right, dear reader: Roland Park is the first planned streetcar suburb in America.

Before the city extended its reach, Roland Park once existed as a quiet neighborhood set apart from the hustle and bustle of

city-life. Ignore the fact that it is still quiet and is set apart from hustle. This neighborhood was built in part to avoid the heat that was ubiquitous downtown.

Roland Park was designed by the famous architect Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. Listing everything he designed would be too troublesome for me. Suffice it to say the man was famous.

Clearly, Olmos and the richies didn't solve their weather problems by moving farther away from Baltimore. So what do we do when the weather warms up in the middle of February? I say enjoy it... and panic. Here's my rule: if you happen to get a lovely day in a harsh Baltimorean winter, you are going to get an equally cruel day in the sweltering Baltimorean summer. This is not to say that the temperature will break past 110 degrees, but the humidity will make you think it did.

The moral of this long-winded story is that if you live in Baltimore, you are going to have to accept the bipolar lady that is its climate. Richies have been trying to escape the heat (and crime) for decades. They move farther and farther away, but the weather stays the same no matter what part of the metro-area becomes home.

I suggest buying a good space-heater and a good air-conditioning unit. Weird weather is just one of those Baltimorean things.

## Annual craft show begins Thursday

Show will feature over seven hundred artists from all over the States as well as from Canada

By FLORENCE LAU  
Your Weekend Editor

The 35th Annual American Craft Council Show is scheduled to take place beginning Thursday, Feb. 24th at 10 a.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center.

This is the largest juried, indoor craft show in the nation. Each participant is picked through rigorous jury process and hail from all across the United States as well as Canada.

For only \$15, you can view handmade creations by more than seven hundred contemporary craft artists. Crafts include jewelry, clothing, furniture, green craft and home décor.

Take the time to pick something out for your dorm room among everything available; something will surely strike your fancy.

There's something for everyone here among the one-of-a-kind items.

In addition to the regular items, maybe you'll find something in some of the special show features and categories:

Greencraft (crafts incorporating recycled or found materials), School-to-Market (crafts by students of California College of the Arts) and Alcraft (crafts which illustrate innovative techniques and materials of the new handmade craft movement) to name a few.

A demo stage will also be set up, featuring different artists and topics each day of the show.

Topics include Chinese ink painting, laminated wood vessels and printing on porcelain.

There will also be awards presented on the demo stage as well as hands-on crafts. For a full schedule, check <http://shows.craft-council.org/baltimore>.

The schedule for the show is as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to



COURTESY OF KTHREAD.COM

The Baltimore Convention Center will showcase handmade creations this weekend.

5 p.m.

There is a special \$6 ticket price for anyone coming to the show after 6 p.m. on Friday evening if tickets are purchased on-site.

In order to avoid lines, tickets can also be purchased online at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1046115961?ref=ebtn>.

The Baltimore Convention Center is on 1 W. Pratt Street.

## Triathlon to benefit hospital

By FLORENCE LAU  
Your Weekend Editor

The Strong Kids for Kids Epilepsy Foundation is hosting the Tri to Help Indoor Triathlon for Epilepsy on Saturday, Feb. 26 beginning at 8 a.m. A new heat begins every forty minutes.

This triathlon is based on time: a 10-minute swim, 30-minute bike ride and 20-minute run. The competitors are judged by how far they get within the time allotted for each sport. People have been split into team relays consisting of all sorts of people in the community, all of whom wish to help with the efforts in finding the cure for epilepsy.

The Strong Kids for Kids Epilepsy Foundation Inc. is a group dedicated to helping those diagnosed with either epilepsy or other seizure disorders. They raise money through various fundraisers in order to prevent, control and hopefully cure child-

hood epilepsy. They host a variety of events including education programs, advocacy and research for treatments involving surgery, brain stimulation and surgery.

After six years and still going strong, this group brings neurologists from all across the United States as well as Canada to share their unique research and viewpoints as well as brainstorm ways to prevent and cure individuals affected with epilepsy.

All proceeds will go to the Johns Hopkins Pediatric Epilepsy Center.

Although registration for the event itself is sold out, you can always donate or go and show your support for those who have registered to compete.

This event will take place at Merritt Athletic Clubs located at 8757 Mylander Lane in Towson.

## Calendar of JHU Events

### Thursday, Feb. 24

Remember the Fifties  
7:30 p.m.  
Theatre Project

The Peabody Chamber Orchestra is putting on a performance of "This is the Rill Speaking," a one-act opera by Lee Hoiby about the everyday events in rural America during the 20th century. This will be followed by Leonard Bernstein's "Trouble in Tahiti," another one-act opera in seven scenes which tells the story of one day in an unhappy couple's life. Performances continue for the rest of the weekend at 7:30 p.m. each evening and at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

### Friday, Feb. 25

Chinese New Year Banquet  
7:30 - 10:30 p.m.  
Charles Commons Ballroom

The CSA is hosting its

annual Chinese New Year Banquet to celebrate the year of the rabbit. Traditional Chinese foods eaten during the New Year will be at the banquet as well as performances by various groups. Tickets will be free, but this is a popular event, so make sure to get your ticket soon to guarantee entrance.

Friday Night Films:  
Tangled  
8 p.m.  
Mudd 26

Join HOP as they show the 2010 animated musical hit, Tangled, largely based on the Rapunzel tale by the Brothers Grimm. Come see why this movie is the second-highest grossing animated film in the Disney animated canon.

### Sunday, Feb. 27

Privileged Pursuits Party  
3 - 7 p.m.  
Homewood Museum

Step back in time to the early 19th century and indulge in dancing, music, games, food and more. Goucher

College's dance history ensemble Choregraphie Antique will be teaching vintage dance moves and the Mid-Atlantic Society for Historical Swordsmanship will be giving fencing demonstrations. There will also be live music and period games. Costumed interpreters will be at the event. This event is \$10 for students. Advance registration is required by calling 410-516-5589.



COURTESY OF VICTORIANA.COM

### Sunday, Feb. 27

Sandwich Sunday  
4 - 5:30 p.m.  
Interfaith Center

Join other volunteers at the Interfaith Center for making sandwiches. All sandwiches are donated to Sisters Together and Researching (STAR), a non-profit organization which provides services to people diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Baltimore.

## Calendar of B'more Events

### Thursday, Feb. 24

Rams Head Live  
7 p.m.  
Rams Head

Medicine Lake is performing at Rams Head along with Cameron Blake and Smooth Kentucky, featuring Cris Jacobs from the Bridge. These three bands represent the music culture in the city of Baltimore. Come out for a night of live music and local talent.

### Friday, Feb. 25

She'll Hurt You if You're Lucky  
6 - 9 p.m.  
Studio Mobtown

A showcase of new drawings by local illustrator/graphic designer Lucinda Morreale will be on display at Studio Mobtown from today to March 25. Join her at the opening reception at 3500 Parkdale Avenue.

Lafayette Gilchrist & William Parker  
7 - 8 p.m.  
The University of Baltimore

Legendary bassist William Parker will be joining pianist Lafayette Gilchrist in this cheap concert at the University of Baltimore. Tickets are \$5.

### Saturday, Feb. 26



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Time is Love  
5 - 7 p.m.  
The Hexagon Space

"Time is Love" is a video collection curated by Kisito Assangni. This collection features emotionally penetrating work from international artists about love during hard times. After the screening, there will be a talk with Assangni.

ni. Artists in the video hail from all over the world, including the US, China, Brazil, Australia, the UK, Uruguay and Cameroon. A three to five dollar donation is suggested, but the event itself is free.

Dance Round Robin  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m.  
Lumberhaus

This performance showcases local experimental dancers, hosted by Caroline Marcantoni and Effervescent Collective, a dance-making organization looking to understand popular culture as well as everyday rituals. A \$5-\$15 donation is suggested, but there is no other fee to get into this event.

Drop Three Takes Over  
Late Night  
11 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.  
Spotlighters Theatre

For \$10, join Drop Three, Baltimore's improv and sketch comedy group for what will undoubtedly be a hilarious night at Spotlighters Theatre. Doors open at 10:30. The theatre is on 817 St. Paul St.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Prof. Porterfield presents Putty Hill

By CHRISTINA WARNER  
Managing Editor

In the face of a struggling economy, the inability of one project to be brought to fruition helped birth Matt Porterfield's *Putty Hill*.

This Baltimore-based film, now lauded by sources such as *The New Yorker* and movie critic Roger Ebert, had its roots in Porterfield's previous work-in-progress, *Metal Gods*.

Porterfield, a Baltimore native and a Film & Media Studies professor at Hopkins, discussed his most recent feature with *The News-Letter* on the cusp of the film's Baltimore release.

Prior to the making of *Putty Hill*, Porterfield's attentions were focused on *Metal Gods*, which he had begun casting in 2008. "It was a feature script that I had spent about a year and a half on," Porterfield said.

"I started developing it, looking for a cast, location scouting, trying to find crew . . . we even had a shoot taking place that was supposed to start July 9th of 2009."

At that point in time, though, the economy was not ideal for creative endeavors in particular. Porterfield attributed the difficulty of finding financial backing to "the economy and the fact that it was only [his] second feature."

After two years of developing

*Metal Gods*, it became clear that the project would not be realized in the near future. However, after the extended focus Porterfield and crew had dedicated to *Metal Gods*, there was a push for a more attainable project.

"I'd met so many people through the casting process that I liked and wanted to see on screen that it felt like a shame to wait another year," Porterfield said. "I had won a grant from IFP (Independent Film Project) for *Metal Gods* but it was a camera rental, essentially a three-week camera package. So we could use that and shape it around the cast that we had in place. That was the reason I even began thinking about the scenario that became *Putty Hill*. And we only had a couple of months to put it together."

*Putty Hill* came together in the short amount of time the project faced. According to Porterfield, "We switched gears in April of '09 and shot in August of '09 . . . It came together quickly and because it came together so quickly, the resources were limited. It made sense to try a project that was a little more improvisational than *Metal Gods*. [It was] looser."

Unlike *Metal Gods*, *Putty Hill* was structured around a five-page treatment rather than a screenplay. "It was basically a map," Porterfield said.

This treatment helped give shape to Porterfield's decision

to combine both narrative realism and a documentary-inspired style.

The flow of the film flips between question and answer scenes with the *Putty Hill* characters, as well as traditional scenes that help to mold the narrative arc.

"All the narrative scenes and fictive scenes, the scenes that weren't interviews, were mapped out pretty much in the chronology that they appear in the final film with little re-ordering," Porterfield said of the treatment.

"There are a number of scenes involving actors. I wanted to see if we could get each based in one location. There are fifteen scenes, fifteen locations, and it took twelve days to shoot. I knew that I wanted to incorporate this very crude sort of documentary interview tactic so that was indicated in the treatment but there was no written dialogue or much of anything on paper."

This method lent itself well to Porterfield's personal connection to the actors. Since *Putty Hill*'s cast was pulled from that of *Metal Gods*, Porterfield had already established relationships with the individuals.

"I had seen everyone for formal auditions and callbacks, maybe once or twice, three times. I'd been to their homes, we'd hung out," he said. For this casting, Porterfield hadn't looked toward name talent.

Instead, he preferred to cast in such a way that "might invite investment."

These relationships helped to craft the nuanced characters who comprise *Putty Hill*.

Instead of scripting the documentarian portions of the film, Porterfield instead encouraged the actors to have such an understanding of the characters that they were able to answer without the aid of previous line memorization

SEE *PUTTY*, PAGE B4



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Jonathan Sole (of Hopkins' very own Octopodes) performed a cover of Muse's "Starlight" at the ICCA quarterfinals.

## Hopkins hosts ICCA quarterfinals

By HSIA-TING CHANG

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Entering the real world of competitive acapella is like entering the fictitious world of Fox's hit show *Glee*. Granted, Saturday night's International Championship of Collegiate Acapella (hereafter shortened to ICCA) quarterfinals lacked Rachel Berry's special brand of melodramatic vocal overkill, but the talent showcased certainly rivaled the performances on the television show.

Ten separate acapella groups competed in Quarterfinal Three in the ICCA South Region competition, held in Shriver Hall last Saturday. Of those 10, three claimed Hopkins as a home. Most of the other collegiate groups hailed from Maryland, with only Vocal Point (University of Delaware) traveling from out-of-state.

Sophomore Andy Weld, who acted as the evening's MC, presided over the ceremonies with Varsity Vocals South producer Lindsay Howerton. Together, they explained the rules of the evening

— the performances were timed and competitors were only given 12 minutes in which to exhibit the breadth of their musical abilities. The judges drew performance orders from a hat earlier that day, and applause was discouraged, at least until the final note of the final song selection had faded, allowing the group to hear the pitch pipe to which they sang.

Hopkins's own comedy acapella group, the Mental Notes, graced the audience with a hilarious song that posited the end of the human race via hostile automaton takeover. Among other sins perpetrated by humans, the "robots" seemed especially concerned with the mistreatment of Earth's mammals, singing, "no elephants; no mistreatment of elephants." Also featured was a timely break for a binary solo, proving yet again how nerdy Hopkins actually is.

As an inaugural performance, the Mental Notes certainly set the tone for the evening. While one might expect nervous energy to color the atmosphere of the competition, the environ-

ment was surprisingly laid back. The Mental Notes's performance helped to break the otherwise stressful evening of competition.

The first group to perform, The Cleftomaniacs, traveled mere minutes from University of Maryland's Baltimore campus to sing. Sporting blue and black attire, they launched into a Lady Gaga mash-up, featuring popular songs such as radio singles "Just Dance," "Paparazzi," "Pokerface" and "Bad Romance," as well as the lesser-known track "Boys, boys, boys."

The soloist in the "Bad Romance" feature was particularly good, and two male back-up dancers provided a campy interpretation of Gaga's frequently parodied claw-hand choreography. Though the overall performance was quite good, at times it seemed as if the group's nervousness caused tempo increases. The Cleftomaniacs also tackled Mika's "Grace Kelly," and the soloist handled the difficult octave leaps quite gracefully, moving into falsetto with a modicum of effort. VV Brown's "Shark

SEE *ICCA*, PAGE B4



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Criminal Uxal (Javier Bardem) strives to protect his family when he is diagnosed with terminal cancer.

## Buttered Niblets bring the humor with first show of semester

By FLORENCE LAU

Your Weekend Editor

When the Buttered Niblets announce a new show, it is practically a guarantee that Arellano Theater will be filled to the brim with people ready for a good laugh after a hard week. This week was no different; people packed the theater.

They had to stand and sit in the back due to a lack of seating in the venue. Although the low ticket price (\$1) may have been part of the attraction, the greater impetus for people to come see the show was probably how well-known and anticipated the group is throughout the entire campus.

The people who came because of the alleged talent and charm of the Buttered Niblets were not misled; everything they heard was completely true.

From the get-go, the show was full of energy and hilarity. The troupe appeared on stage amidst a crescendo of stomping and cheering from the audience.

The lights went up to reveal the 11 members of the Buttered Niblets ready for an evening of comedy.

They jumped right in with the game "SpaceTime," in which senior Andrew Yip and sophomore Benjamin Zucker performed a scene in three different settings, each suggested from the audience members.

The first scene was done in a used car lot and then the same scene (buying a car) was adapted to a medieval English setting as well as a Stone Age setting. Yip and Zucker were brilliant in how quickly they were able to move from one scene to another — they barely hesitated in changing "buying a car" in a used car lot to "buying a horse" in medieval England to "buying shoes" in the Stone Age. The audience laughed freely, and this was one of the best games, if not the best, of the evening.

Yip was also in the next game, "Slideshow," in which he and sophomore Hilary Barker narrated a documentary about ghosts, another prompt from the audience.

The rest of the actors in this game acted the part of the "slideshow" by freezing in poses, and Yip and Barker had to come up with ways to explain why their co-actors were posing in the way they were.

They came up with very creative ways to explain the poses, often invoking laughter.

This game was one of the weaker ones in the show, but that didn't mean that it wasn't enjoyable to watch.

The Buttered Niblets did seem to recognize this, because they kept

it short enough that it didn't begin to drag, but long enough to satisfy the audiences who did enjoy this game.

"Armando," which had been performed at the show in the beginning of the year, improved a lot in the time since.

A guest star who wasn't in the Buttered Niblets was brought on stage to tell a story based on a prompt from the audience ("tips"), and then six members of the troupe acted out scenes based off that story, which prompted another story, and so on and so forth.

Although the format of this game itself hadn't changed, it no longer felt like it lagged, as compared to the first show of the year, and was, as usual, hilarious as they touched on topics from freeloading neighbors to blind professors.

In "Foreign Film," freshman Claire Rosen and sophomore Evan Wiley are blindfolded and must "dub" a foreign film while Zucker and Barker act the scene out without saying anything.

Watching Zucker and Barker try to follow the dialogue from Rosen and Wiley was highly amusing, although it did not garner as many laughs as the rest of the evening had.

Yip was the star in Last Minute Soap Opera; he played the main character in a scene of a soap opera titled "Gestapo Town" by a member of the audience.

He along with Rosen, Barker, and Wiley performed a scene while randomly inserting sentences written by the audience before the show started.

This would have been funny in and of itself, but it was most

SEE *NIBLETS*, PAGE B4



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Barney (Paul Giamatti) and Izzy (Dustin Hoffman) have a chat in *Barney's Version*.

## Barney's Version explores one man's life and loves

By CHLOE BAIZE

Staff Writer

Released amidst the throes of award season, *Barney's Version* has not attracted a great deal of attention.

Compared to the Oscar pushes made for *Black Swan* or *True Grit*, the press awarded to the Richard J. Lewis-directed film can't help but seem a bit low-key, although the lead actor Paul Giamatti just received a deserved Golden Globe award for best comedic performance.

Inspired by Mordecai Richler's novel of the same name, *Barney's Version* is a two-hour-long drama

following the life of the exuberant Barney Panofsky.

Unsilently, overweight, constantly sipping whisky and chain-smoking cigars, Barney is the embodiment of the outsider. He is so politically incorrect and

such a blunderer that it's hard not to repeatedly close your eyes to block out the shame and pity you feel for him.

The plot itself is built around Barney's hectic love life, and each of his marriages — there are three of them — represent a stage in his life.

It all begins in Rome, Italy, where Barney feels forced into a marriage with a hysterical and pregnant artist, Clara Charnofsky, who is as beautiful as she is amazingly funny.

SEE *BARNEY*, PAGE B4

### BARNEY'S VERSION

**Starring:** Paul Giamatti, Dustin Hoffman, Minnie Driver  
**Director:** Richard J. Lewis  
**Run Time:** 134 min.  
**Rating:** R  
**Playing at:** The Charles Theater



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

Senior Andrew Yip and Sophomore Hilary Barker narrating "Slideshow" at the Buttered Niblets show.



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# 30 Rock takes a weird turn in season five

By REBECCA FISHBEIN  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Great sitcoms are hard to come by. Sure, there's been *Seinfeld*, *M\*A\*S\*H*, *Cheers* and *Friends*, but frankly, on-camera shots and laugh tracks get super stale super fast, and standby formulas seem, well, standby after a while.

That's what made shows like NBC's *The Office* and *30 Rock* seem so great. They jazzed up the 30-minute format by canning the canned laughter using handheld cameras and other fun tech stuff to keep the audience on their toes. Quick, snappy writing didn't hurt much either.

But now, even those revolutionary primetime comedies are losing their touch.

First and foremost, Steve Carell is fleeing *The Office* for more feature films.

More importantly, *30 Rock* is starting to get bizarre. And not in a good way.

Last season ended on a fine note, with Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) maybe finding love with airline pilot Carrol (Matt Damon) and Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) discovering that he and right-wing commentator/girlfriend Avery (Elizabeth Banks) were expecting a baby.

The early season had some fun plotlines, with Liz trying to



Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) and Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) get a brief glimpse of married life in season five of *30 Rock*. COURTESY OF WWW.DAEMONSTV.COM

juggle her job with her new relationship, and Jack coming to terms with impending fatherhood.

There was also some kitschy stuff, like an entire live episode on Oct. 14 (or two episodes, one for the East Coast and one for the West) that was way more weird than funny.

But still, the season was strong, fraught with guest stars like Will Forte, Kelsey Grammar and Damon. Everything seemed like business as usual on the Top of the Rock.

Then, *30 Rock* went on a month plus-long winter hiatus, returning with new episodes on Jan. 20. And that's when stuff started getting weird.

Mostly, with Jack and Liz.

While Jack and Liz have always had great platonic chemistry, recent episodes have been shot up with some new "will they, won't they" sexual tension.

In one episode, "Mrs. Donaghy," Liz and Jack go so far as to get married, which, while an accident, might be some foreshadowing for future plotlines.

It was pretty funny to watch Jack and Liz go through couple's counseling, but it did set a strange tone for the relationship in later episodes, especially with Avery and Liz.

Sure, Liz and Jack might make a cute couple in theory, but isn't one of the show's best qualities the strength of their friendship? Do we really want everything to get all Chandler and Monica at TGS?

Well. Maybe a little bit. As long as *30 Rock* doesn't jump the shark. That would be tragic.

# Buttered Niblets amp up the humor with year's first show

NIBLETS, FROM B3

hilarious point of the game was when Barker was yelling at a baker and pulled out a line that aptly said, "I like pie." The laughter from just this was nearly unmatched the rest of the evening.

The final game of the evening was "Late for Work," in which Barker was late to work, and her boss Wilev demanded to know why.

Her coworkers, Yip, Rosen and Zucker attempted to mime and even a sound effect of a toilet flushing at one point that she had been "stuck inside a neurotic whale," "pooped in a car" and was "attacked by zebras while having a colonoscopy." Although Barker needed a hint in the form of senior Jeremy Bremmer, she eventually managed to guess all three reasons to raucous cheers and applause.

There are only two criticisms of the show. First, there were people who seemed to be featured heavily, like Yip and Barker, and others who were only in one game, like freshman Jen Dia-

mond and senior Ian White.

The show could have benefited from mixing up the actors and spreading them out more evenly. The other is that while the audience was laughing, the actors kept going, and since the laughter masked what was happening on stage, the audience missed several lines every game.

The troupe must live and breathe comedy, because everything they did was done so smoothly.

They know what makes people laugh, and they know exactly how to work a crowd. In a nutshell, they understand the art of comedic delivery.

Their effectiveness was extremely clear if one only listened to the volume of laughs that evening in the tiny theater.

There is no doubt that there will be many returning audience members in the Buttered Niblets's next show in March. After all, as the doctors say, laughter is one of the best remedies for stress, and the Buttered Niblets deliver to perfection.

# Porterfield's Putty Hill provides realistic B'more view

PUTTY, FROM B3

"I feel like their conversations or interviews are continuations of conversations we were already having and we didn't write any of the questions down ahead of time," Porterfield said. "Everything that is spoken in the film came about organically but of course there is fiction to it, the fictional element being this young man who has died." This fictional element is that of the character Cory, a 24-year-old Baltimore resident who died from an overdose. Cory is never seen except for a single photo during a memorial gathering in a karaoke bar. Due to this absence, the audience must piece together their own version of Cory while his own family and friends grapple with the understanding of their relationships with him.

The film's structure is pivotal in the ways that viewers interpret *Putty Hill*'s events. The combination of the unscripted and scripted narratives add to the dimensionality of the characters but also work to create a forum that allows one to analyze film as a medium itself.

"I thought it might be an interesting way to get the cast to share their own stories while simultaneously acknowledging what we are watching is not a documentary, it is a film," Porterfield said. "I want audiences to be aware that they are watching something that has a certain truth value [because] we have people talking about their own lives, but they are also performing versions of themselves in the narrative scenes and even in the interviews.

And even hearing someone off-camera asking questions of the cast we are reminded of the central construct and the relationship between filmmaker and subject. It's a self-conscious way to call all of that into question but also a narrative device. It gives us a sense of context that we don't have with just a number of narrative scenes, if we're just the narrative scenes that exist in the film without the interviews."

The success of the question and answer portions is belied in the understanding that comes from the often reluctant or sparse dialogue offered by the characters. At the same time, the unscripted aspects of the film have helped to propel *Putty Hill* to such levels of realism.

*Putty Hill* shows Baltimore through unfiltered lens, offering an acclaimed realistic view of the city and its residents. Despite this almost gritty perspective, the scenes that allow the viewers to disappear into the woods and along the river with the characters evoke a romantic feel as well.

The music choices are minimal, rarely veering from a cello-heavy score. In only two instances do popular songs make an appearance. The first is in a tattoo scene in which Jeremih's "Birthday Sex" plays in the background, shifting the slow, dreamy feel of the nar-

rative to one that occurs at a very specific point in time. "When I first met Spike, he was tattooing clients and that song came on the radio. It was popular that summer so it was this crazy combination of two worlds for me that I experienced in the moment and wanted to recreate on the screen," Porterfield said.

Cory's memorial gathering occurs in a karaoke bar which also provides a setting for the inclusion of music. Porterfield determined these choices based on his own experience with the karaoke bar and the song selections that locals usually make.

The authenticity of *Putty Hill* can be partially attributed to the many Baltimore natives who participated in the production. Only actors Sky Ferriera and Zoe Vance hail from different cities, although the crew itself was more New York based. "I brought a lot of people from New York just because that's where most of my relationships are," Porterfield said. "We had five or six Hopkins students who interned and crewed on the film. . . . I had one student from MICA as well."

Joshua Gleason, a senior Film & Media Studies major, was one of the Hopkins students to work on the film. He was credited as best boy, a role which works under the grips and cinematographer. "It was such a small set that you end up doing a little bit of everything," Gleason said. "Everyone was a PA (Personal Assistant). Occasionally I would get coffee, and one day they sent me to Alexandria, VA to get these prop guns."

This inclusive and collaborative effort affected the set environment. "It was a lot different than bigger productions. . . . it became a cohesive unit," Gleason said. "It was the toughest I've ever worked in my entire life. . . . hard work in the middle of a Baltimore summer is so intense but it was the best experience I've ever had."

Another senior Film & Media Studies student, Alexandra Byer, worked on the set as a boom operator. She took away a similar experience to Gleason's. In an e-mail to *The News-Letter*, she said, "Matt took a big leap of faith by letting his students work on the film, and hopefully he's happy with the outcome because I know working on

*Putty Hill* will remain pivotal to my career."

Looking to the future, Porterfield has plans to continue working in Baltimore. "I just finished a screenplay and then I'm about to start work on another," Porterfield said. "For this other one, it's set in Baltimore, about this guy on house arrest. We are applying for some grants because it's another small picture. So it's sort of all happening at the same time, the writing, the grant writing."

The focus on multiple projects will hopefully prevent a fate similar to that of *Metal Gods*, although Porterfield still hopes to be able to bring that script to the screen. "I'd love to make it. I think if I were to return to it, I'd be open to thinking about it in different ways," Porterfield said. "I might go back and revisit it. It's. . . a really strong feature script that I can show people. I'd like to move forward having a couple

[and] its diversity despite the fact that we are kind of a divided city."

He doesn't intend to limit himself to filming only in Baltimore though, citing cost as again a factor in determining location. "Unfortunately the reality of making films is when you work on projects that cost a little more you have to be conscious of what you're paying for, and what you can save," Porterfield said. "A lot of cities offer really good tax incentives, a lot of states rather. Maryland doesn't so there's a point at which, because of the economy, I may need to work in another place just to get a project made. I'm not looking forward to that but I think it's probably a reality of the business. . . . when I moved back it's because I was living in New York and writing scenes that were all set here. It was what I knew."

Porterfield spent time in New York City while attending New

York University for undergraduate education. Intending to become a psychology major ("I was sort of falling asleep in the lecture classes"), Porterfield eventually switched to the film department after writing a one-act play. "Suddenly I was engaged in this discipline," he said.

This past week, *Putty Hill* was released in New York City where Porterfield made an appearance for question and answer sessions. "I've spent a little over a year traveling with the film and if I'm needed I'll go somewhere

for the weekend, but I really like being here for the week," Porterfield says of Baltimore.

"I enjoy teaching. . . . I learn a lot from the students and it keeps me invigorated and thinking about both theory and craft outside of my own. It's very easy to become myopic if you're just working on your own stuff all the time."

*Putty Hill* also returns to Baltimore, with the upcoming premiere occurring next week at The Charles. Porterfield spoke of his excitement at premiering the film in its original city, saying, "It's a really personal film and it's one of these things that you can get into for various reasons if you live in another city in America or somewhere else in the world. But I think it's specific too and I think Baltimore audiences will really be able to engage with something on-screen that represents an aspect of living here."



COURTESY OF JOYCE KIM AND ANDREW LAUMANN  
Porterfield shoots at one of the many Baltimore locations featured in *Putty Hill*.

of things, so I'm not stuck in one path which is kind of what happened with *Metal Gods*. Luckily we were able to divert our energy and make *Putty Hill*, but it's really frustrating if you're just working on one thing. It can take a really long time to make a movie so it's nice to have a couple things going at once."

Baltimore has provided Porterfield inspiration for both *Putty Hill* and his first feature *Hamilton*, as well as these future projects of which he speaks. Growing up in Baltimore provided him with the knowledge that allows his films to be such authentic works. "I don't think that what we experience is so much different than any sort of post-industrial, second-tier on the east coast. . . . but it just inspires me culturally," Porterfield said. "Geographically, I like its proximity to the water, the maritime traditions here,



COURTESY OF JESSICA BLAU  
Jessica Blau, a former Writing Seminars professor, published *Drinking Closer to Home*.

# Former Hopkins professor Blau debuts second novel

By SARAH GUBARA  
Staff Writer

Right between the bookshelves, Jessica Anya Blau haunted the bookshelves of Barnes and Noble for the reading of her second novel, *Drinking Closer to Home*.

A sun-kissed California girl, she now teaches at Goucher College though she used to teach at Hopkins, and is a graduate of the Writing Seminars department here.

A Berkeley graduate with a degree in French, Blau started writing when she lived in Toronto, Canada, as the provisions of her visa did not allow her to work or go to school.

It's clear she loves Baltimore, mentioning that "it's intimate, village-y and sweet. And the writers in the area are all supportive of each other." She compared teaching at Goucher to teaching in California, as the kids are very mellow, though she has great love for Hopkins because of the "talented, wonderful and diverse student body."

There were many people in attendance for her reading: obsessed students, local bookworms, photographer Bill Hughes, the editor of 32 *Poems Magazine* Deborah Ager and "the postcard guy" Michael Kimball.

*Drinking Closer to Home* emerged from a short story she wrote called "Home for the Heart Attack," which was based on actual events.

The novel, however, takes place over several decades in California, through the eyes of three kids who come home after their mother has a heart attack. Throughout the novel there are flashback chapters so, as Blau explained, "reading one out loud won't give anything away."

The lives of the fictional characters run parallel to Blau and her siblings' lives. Portia, Anna and Emery are based on the author herself, her older sister and her younger brother. Louise and Buzzy are based on her parents. Blau talked with *The News-Letter* about the writing process and how she rewrote the book three times. It was first an autobiography in first person. Her agent then suggested

changing it to a third person limited point-of-view.

The final version was third person from the kids' different perspectives. The final version is much richer, Blau said, as it allows a more intimate look into the kids' lives. The excerpt Blau read at Barnes and Noble was from a chapter that takes place when the girls come home from college.

Anna, 21, and Portia, 18, party it up in Santa Barbara and Blau provides wonderful imagery into their lives, touching on sex, drugs, drinking and family. It took Blau two years to write this novel as she spent time teaching and raising her children while working on it. She mentioned that it was a lot easier getting a book published the second time, thanks to an already-established agent and a optional deal with publishing company HarperCollins.

Once a month, Blau meets with a writer's group, who she said "shred through all my writing, so I go through the same process as my students."

She advises to, "be utterly and profoundly true to yourself, keep going — ignore the world, and never internalize criticism," helpful insight for those looking to pursue a career in the writing field.

After she finished reading, a woman named Sherri Miller approached Blau and introduced herself. In Blau's first book *The Summer of Naked Parties*, the protagonist Jamie, has a black crocheted bikini that she bought from one of the artisans who set up shop on the beach in Santa Barbara. Blau herself had purchased a favorite black crochet bikini at the beach in Santa Barbara. The author had a look of disbelief on her face as she realized this was the woman who had made the bathing suit she'd loved so much, so much so that she wrote it into her book.

When asked why she chose to write her biography on her webpage ([www.jessicaanyablau.com](http://www.jessicaanyablau.com)) via stories of all the dogs she's had in her life, Blau replied, "I did it to amuse myself. I don't like talking about myself over and over again — it makes me want to puke!"



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# HSO season opens with Copland selections

By ISAAC BROOKS  
Staff Writer

The Hopkins Symphony Orchestra started the 2011 season with a wonderful chamber concert last Sunday, which featured a diverse selection of pieces which ranged from the Baroque to the minimalist.

The performers themselves apparently chose the pieces for the concert, which is perhaps what led to the medley of styles.

The first piece was Mendelssohn's *Song Without Words*, played by cellist Carolyn Rosinsky with piano accompaniment by Aliyah Sanders.

This was the most "normal" of the pieces in the concert. Though it is a tranquil song, *Song Without Words* got quite energetic in the middle and adopted a darker tone, before returning to the original theme at the conclusion. The melody was nothing out of the ordinary, but it was a pretty piece that was very well played, and set a good standard for the rest of the concert.

The next piece was the first of the modern pieces. Entitled *The Even Chance: Theme and Variations*, the music was composed and performed by Justine Koontz, who while presenting it pointed out that she was one of only two living composers featured in the concert. The piece was a flute-clarinet duet and accompanied by piano.

This piece was program music, meaning Koontz set the music to a story which she explained briefly as variations of a sea-shanty melody. The theme was clear throughout all the variations, which seemed to do little but change the mood. It was an interesting exercise, but without motion between the variations, the piece didn't build up into an interesting whole.

Following this came another oldie, from Bach's *Suite No. 3 in G Major*, performed on double-bass by Charles Ermer without any accompaniment.

It was well played, but suffered heavily from the diversity of the program. It came after a more flamboyant piece with technically difficult instrument parts and strong accompaniment, and so the audience's ears weren't prepared for the subtle harmony of Bach's music. The beginning of the piece felt somewhat tentative, and it wasn't until nearly halfway through the piece that one could

really hear it properly.

However, the performer more than made up for it, by following the Bach up with an unexpected addition to the program. He started plucking the strings of the double bass (called pizzicato by the musically inclined), and was soon joined by a fellow double bassist in a jazzy duet that really showed off the range of the instruments and the talent of the performers. It was a pleasant surprise that worked very well.

The next piece was the minimalist *Eleven* by Jonathan Russell (the latter of the still living composers featured), performed by eleven clarinets and conducted by Russell himself. It was based on a single, short melody, which was repeated multiple times in variation with slight changes that developed over time. For a while it was possible to keep track of those minute differences, but eventually the theme blended into the whirlpool of clarinets and got lost.

The music got quite dissonant at times, which was a bit hard to hear after the Bach. A chamber concert, where the listeners are very close to the performers, can amplify the dissonance and be a bit much.

One particular moment toward the end, when the performers would stop and start every

Suite from *Appalachian Spring* by Copland. This was performed by the Hopkins Symphony Chamber Orchestra, which was quite a departure from the smaller ensembles featured beforehand.

The piece was an interesting blend of musical styles, as indeed the whole concert was. It started off with a slow, romantic pastorate, but soon switched gears and became more energetic and chromatic. The suite included many moments of dialogue between the ensemble and individual instruments. This allowed the orchestra to show off its different sections, which were more than ready for the job.

The woodwinds in particular were amazing, pulling off several difficult solos perfectly and, moreover, clearly.

The final moments — a reprisal of the Shaker hymn *Simple Gifts* — were extremely moving.

The concert's program may have been somewhat disjointed, but it showed the breadth of the Hopkins Symphony Chamber's repertoire, proving that they can pull off anything. The performances were very good, and it was a great start to this semester for the orchestra.

The next performance in the series is on Saturday, March 12; the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra



COURTESY OF WWW.JEWOFTHEDAY.COM

The Hopkins Symphony Orchestra performed pieces by composer Aaron Copland on Sunday.

few notes, felt particularly ugly, though that is perhaps the point of this musical exercise. Whatever the point, it was well done and the end was good, with the original theme blending itself back into clarity for the climax.

Following a short intermission, the showpiece was played —

plays a free concert at Shriver Hall performing Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*.

The piece will be played the following day for a more adult crowd, with the addition of Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5*, and is free for Hopkins students.



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The AllNighters performed a number of songs at the competition, including versions of Radiohead's "Creep" and Toto's "Africa."

## Hopkins hosts ICCA quarterfinals

ICCA, FROM B3

in the Water," faithfully interpreted, concluded the group's set.

Next to compete were The Mama's Boys, an all male acapella group from UMBC. The group ambitiously tackled Nelly's "Just A Dream." The soloist gave the radio hit a more R&B spin, infusing the lines with more melody than the original. The performance of "Funny The Way It Is," by Dave Matthews Band, was the weakest of the Mama's Boys's set. The group struggled with balancing the volume of their ensemble vocals with that of their melodic line.

Not only were the background singers overpowering the soloist, but they also failed to listen to each other's harmonies. The chord leading to the change in key sounded discordant — not purposefully dissonant, but actually sour. The Mama's Boys managed to redeem themselves a little with their final song selection, a Nina Simone oldie entitled "Feelin' Good," that has also been covered by Muse and Dave Matthews Band, with a suave, slick rendition of the song that echoed an equally sharp choreography.

Vocal Point, a co-ed acapella group from University of Delaware, competed third. Though they originally sang only '80s party music, they have since explored more contemporary pieces. Saturday night, the group sported much more casual wear than did the other groups, decked out in leather jackets and jeans in shades of black and gray.

This laid-back aesthetic suited

their choice of song — a medley including OneRepublic's "Secrets" and Paramore's "Ignorance." Vocal Point utilized handclaps and stomps to imitate the percussion that dominates much of "Secrets" to surprisingly great effect. As for Paramore's "Ignorance," the soloist simply did not have the power to do Hayley William's voice justice. The arrangement also suffered from the inexplicable decision to have members interject "No!" throughout the chorus, serving only to distract from the overall performance.

University of Maryland College Park's Faux Paz heavily emphasized their soloists, and with good reason. Though their first soloist took a more lyrical rather than rock approach to Neon Trees's "Animal," he still struggled with hitting the higher notes, needing to force them out rather than let them breathe naturally. Still, his performance was only lacking in comparison to the Faux Paz soloists following him.

The group's female vocalists can certainly sing, and have the interpretative as well as technical faculty to truly interpret a song. They made the difficult key changes and octave jumps seem effortless. "I Surrender" by Celine Dion and "Cosmic Love" by Florence and the Machine were both high points in the night.

Also from College Park was University of Maryland's PandemoniUM, who performed Stevie Wonder's "Don't You Worry About A Thing," Michael Bubl  's "Hollywood," and Evanescence's "My Immortal."

The group was a mixed bag of abilities; the soloist in the Stevie Wonder song was able to sing chromatically but the soloist in the Michael Bubl  's song could not. As for the "My Immortal" cover, while the soloist was good, the song choice was perhaps melodramatic.

The sixth group to compete was Hopkins's very own all-male AllNighters. The audience, while enthusiastic throughout the night, erupted when these hometown boys took to the stage. Though perhaps not the strongest group musically, the AllNighters certainly had attitude and honestly seemed to enjoy themselves.

The group performed Toto's "Africa," with sophomore Ryan Thompson as the primary soloist, and senior Andrew Lelin and junior Paul Han as secondaries. Though quite enjoyable to listen to, the song didn't quite showcase the boys' talents, with the middle line of the three-part trio often disappearing. However, the AllNighters's rendition of Radiohead's "Creep" was both hauntingly beautiful and hilariously, well, creepy. An homage to this year's Oscar nominated Social Network, filmed here at Hopkins, "Creep" was used during trailers for the Facebook movie, and the all-male group forwent the traditional soloist in favor of an ensemble piece.

The choreography only underscored the eeriness of the song with a rather tongue-in-cheek reflection of the lyrics. Han sang the ubiquitous Phil Collin's love song, "You'll Be In My Heart." Han could have stood to be more confident on the stage — his voice was quite good though his delivery was tentative and not as powerful as it could have been.

Humorously named competitors Squawkapella traveled from Salisbury University (surprisingly located in Salisbury, Maryland). This group had formidable soloists, and their song choices were spot-on. Mariah Carey's "Always Be My Baby" featured a soloist almost scarily reminiscent of the vocally-blessed diva, and the duet in the Boyz II Men ballad "End of the Road" was superbly R&B. The female soloist for Pink's "Misery" owned the stage, and her perfectly placed growls and wails stunned the audience.

Saint Mary's College of Baltimore's Interchorus followed. Vocally strong overall, this acapella group had a good ear for blending their harmonies. Songs included "Trashin' the Camp" from Disney's *Tarzan*, Ingrid Michaelson's "Hide and Seek" and Bruno Mars's "Marry You." While the solos could have been stronger and the direction "Hide and Seek" took was shaky, the group nonetheless put on an enjoyable performance.

Not long after, Hopkins's oldest acapella group performed in that particular shade of blue for which they are famous. The Octopodes also chose Florence and the Machine's "Cosmic Love" to showcase the insane technical ability of their singer, senior Cynthia Alessio, who tackled the song beautifully. Her incredible voice stretched over the octave leaps without breaking and filled the auditorium.

Indeed, all of the Octopodes' soloists had crazy singing chops; senior Doug Ceci sang a heartfelt version of The Scripts' "Break-even," and his soulful style only helped to show judges the range of the Octopodes' ability. The group's set ended with a mash-up of Katy Perry's "Firework" and Muse's "Starlight." Sophomore Miriam D'Onofrio and junior Jonathan Sole traded off parts in the clever arrangement.

D'Onofrio has a big voice and used it to full advantage during her solo, attacking the particularly difficult parts with admirable determination though it did result in a few key slips. Sole sang with equal commitment, exercising deft control over his voice modulations.

The final competitors for the evenings were the Vocal Chords, also of Hopkins. Senior Rob Keleher kicked off this final performance with Marc Broussard's "The Wanderer." A charming performance, the choreography took full advantage of the lyrics, which encouraged a female member of the group to "dance with me, sweetheart." Next, two female soloists, sophomore Amanda Levine and freshman Zo   Cohen, performed "The Dark I Know Well," from the musical *Spring Awakening*.

A decent if not breathtaking execution of the Broadway favorite was followed by an equally competent rendition of Pink's "Misery." Sophomore Talia Hughes sang the solo, with senior Claire Grechis providing back-up.

The entire event was bookended by performances by the Mental Notes, and the Sirens performed as well during the judge's deliberations. Anticipation was high in the auditorium and when the results were announced, not just the winners went crazy.

ICCA Semifinals take place March 19, at the University of South Carolina at 8 p.m.

## Barney's Version takes a long look at love, life and death

SEE BARNEY, PAGE B4

Rome is a wild, almost adolescent time for Barney, as he becomes part of a hip crowd composed of the novelist Boogie (Scoot Speedman), musician Leo (Thomas Trabacchi) and other larger-than-life characters.

The episode ends dramatically and tragically, however, when Barney finds out that his wife's stillborn child is not his and his wife commits suicide. Turbulent indeed.

Then comes a time in which Barney decides to settle down. He heads back to Montreal where he meets the second Mrs. Panovsky (Minnie Driver) — somehow a very brilliant clich   of the annoying superficial and spoiled housewife — through an intermediary of the local Jewish community.

While perhaps a little too full of stereotyped jokes, their wedding scene is one of the most hilarious and awkward moments in recent cinematic history.

Barney hates his future wife even before he gets legally trapped in a relationship with her, and when his father (another amazing performance from Dustin Hoffman), a retired cop, gives him his gun as a wedding present, it's unclear whether he's more likely to shoot his bride or himself out of despair.

This is also a moment during this epic commitment commitment scene in which Barney falls in love-at-first-sight with Miriam (Rosamund Pike). When she is introduced, the

movie takes a radical turn.

Transformed by love, the terribly lousy Barney morphs into a pleasant, and at times, touching character.

The lovely Pike delivers an outstanding performance as the beautiful and smart woman fraught with a mysterious grace of seriousness that contrasts sharply with Barney's grumpy antithero.

Initially, their marriage home seems like a peaceful nest of happiness, and Barney seems appeased and satisfied for good. But of course there is no happy ending in *Barney's Version*.

With the help of some terrific performances — Paul Giamatti makes his embarrassing character very plausible and sympathetic, while Dustin Hoffman steals the spotlight in each of his appearances — *Barney's Version* takes on a wide range of emotions through-

out the lifespan of the eponymous character.

However, when it comes to establishing itself as a depiction of a life, the movie takes both good and bad turns.

The film starts out slow, taking at least a half hour to pick up, and by the end, dips too deeply into sentimentalism.

Emotionally, *Barney's Version* is pretty much the opposite of a

Disney movie: it goes through complicated matters of life without using any idealism or ellipsis, which is likely why the movie is so long.

Sometimes, the film tries to tug at the heartstrings a little too much, but it does, on occasion, earn merit when it comes to being a sincere sincere depiction of human glory and misery on a very specific individual



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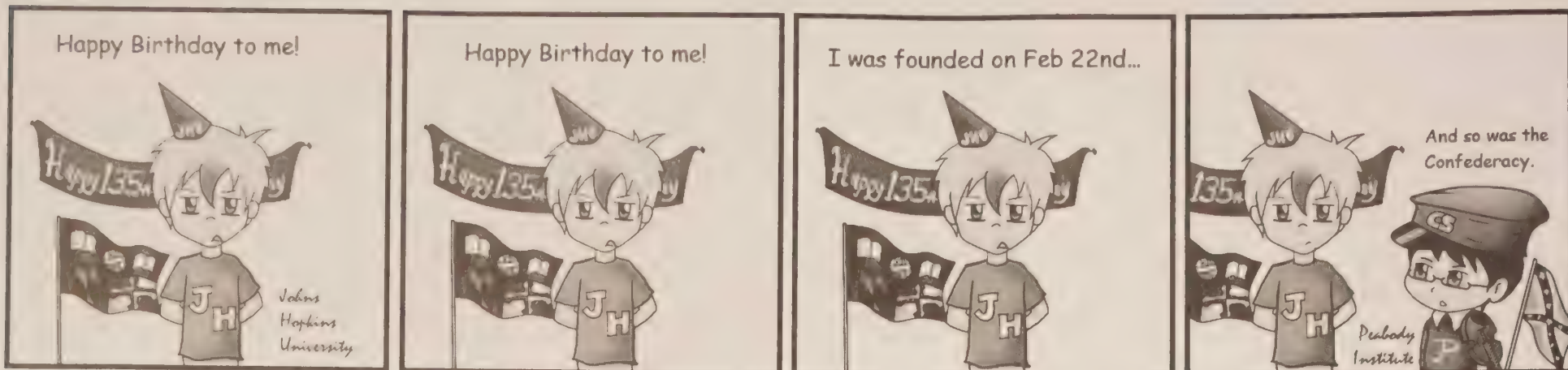
Miriam (Rosamund Pike) contemplates her morning paper in director Richard Lewis's *Barney's Version*.



# CARTOONS, ETC.

## Blue Jay Brigade

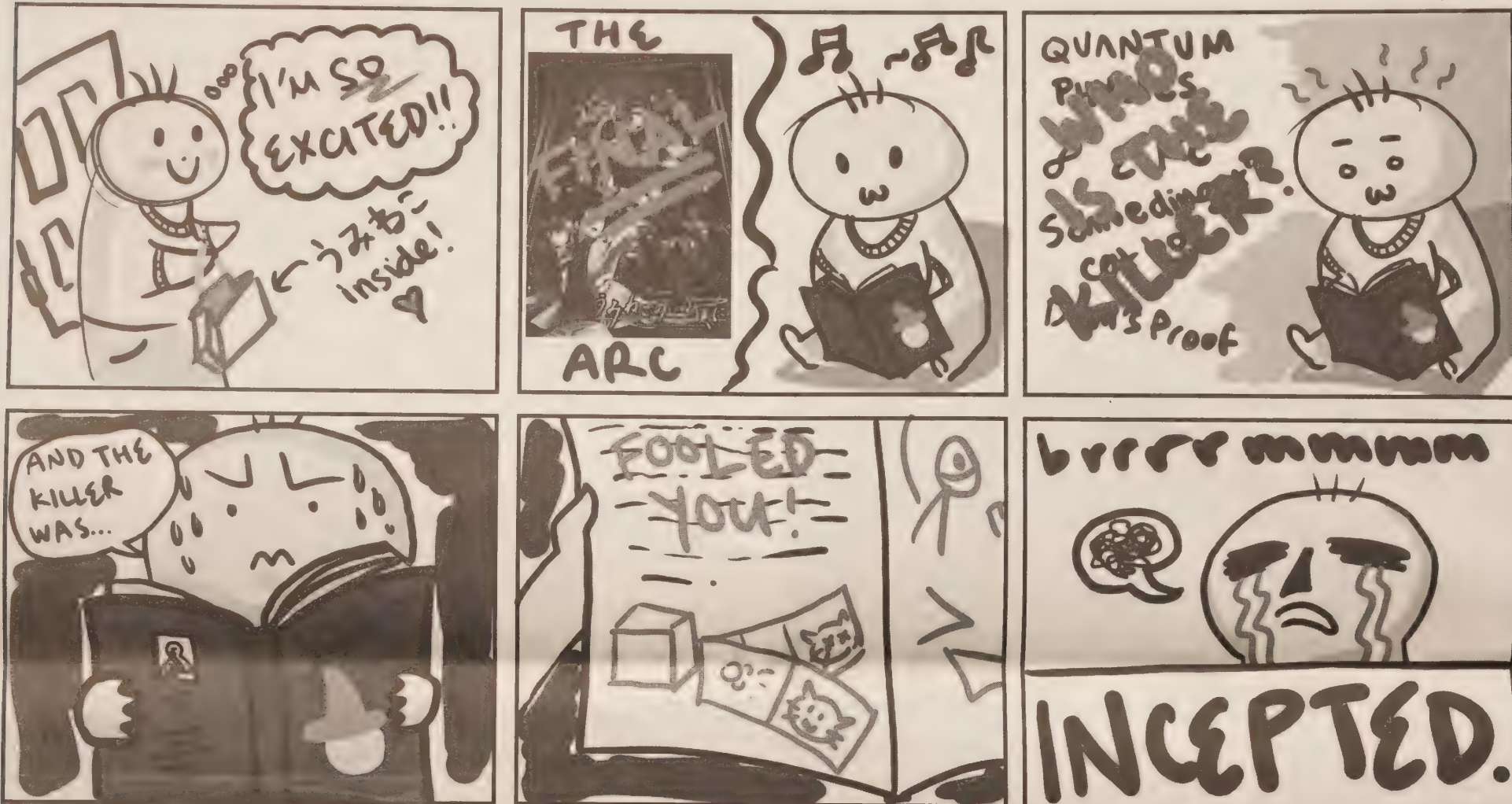
By Kevin Stoll Li



\*Though we know of course that Johns Hopkins and Peabody supported the North during the Civil War.

## Umineko no Naku Koro ni: The Final Arc

By Annie

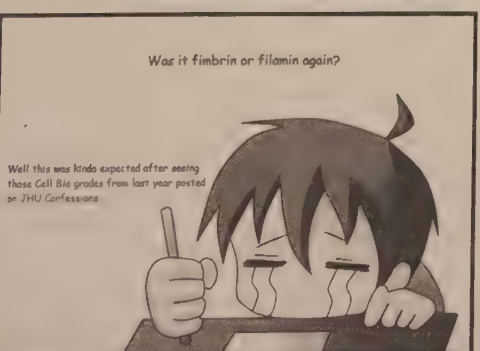
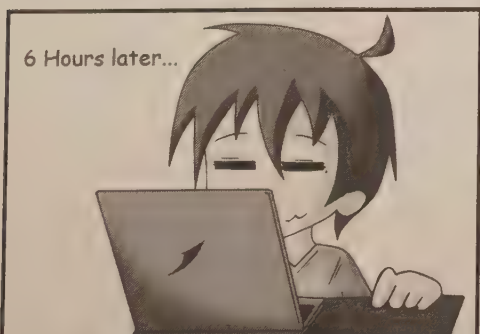
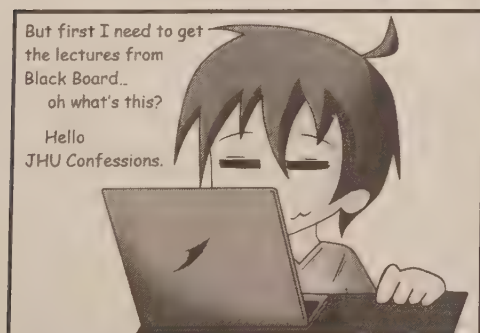
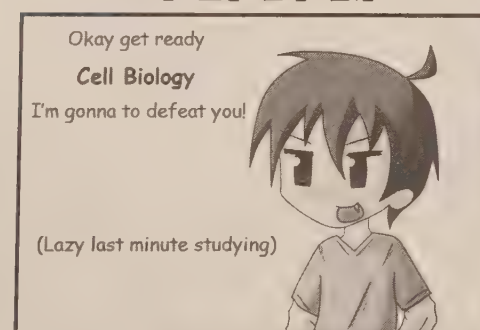


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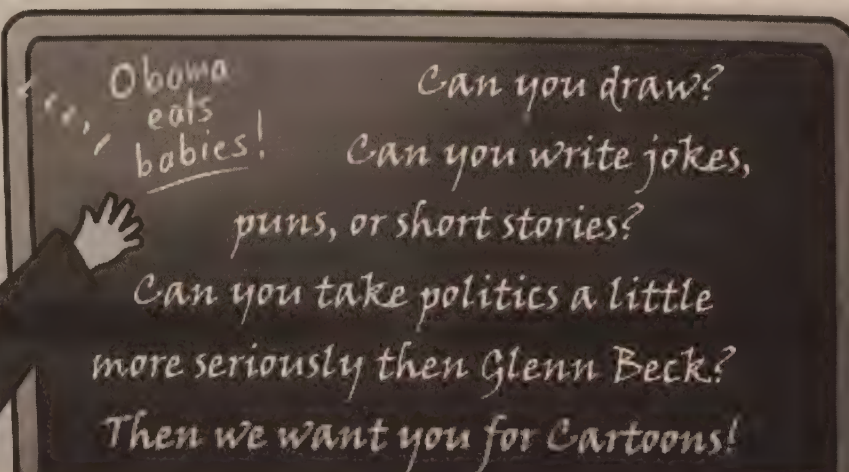
## H. E. L. L.

## Life is But a Dream

By Jake Budenz

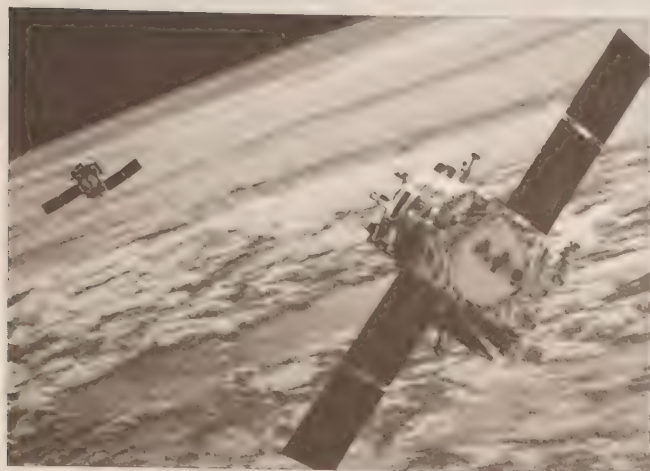


## GLENN BECK PROGRAM

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# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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NASA's Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory was launched in the Fall of 2006.

## NASA releases first 3D images of the entire sun

By MAHA HAQQANI  
Staff Writer

On Feb. 6th, also known as Super Bowl Sunday, NASA's twin STEREO probes moved into position on opposite sides of the sun, giving for the first time uninterrupted images of the entire star in three-dimensional action.

STEREO (Solar TERrestrial RELations Observatory) was designed by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, MD. Each STEREO probe photographs half the sun, beaming images to Earth which researchers then combine to create a three-dimensional image.

What makes these images special is their detail and accuracy. STEREO's telescopes are tuned to four different wavelengths of ultraviolet radiation selected to follow critical solar activity such as solar flares, tsunamis and magnetic filaments.

"For the first time ever, we can watch solar activity in its full 3-dimensional glory," Angelos Vourlidas, a member of the STEREO science team at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, DC, said in a statement to *New Scientist* magazine.

In the past, an active sunspot could emerge on the far side of the sun completely hidden from Earth, and the sun's rotation could turn that region toward Earth, spitting flares and clouds of plasma. However, with the recent success of STEREO, farside active regions can no longer go unnoticed.

Rather than burning with consistent intensity, the sun goes through phases of high activity and relative calm in a continuous cycle. STEREO helps to better monitor these phases, which usually last for an average of around eleven years.

The current cycle began in 2008, but recently solar scientists have announced that the Sun is headed for its period of most turbulent activity. The first explosive event that sent billions of tons of charged particles hurling towards Earth was observed on Feb. 14.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is already using three-dimensional STEREO models of CMEs (coronal mass ejection — massive clouds of plasma ejected by the sun) to improve space weather forecasts for airlines, power companies and satellite operators. A view of the entire sun should further improve those forecasts.

These forecasting benefits extend beyond Earth as well. Lika Guhathakurta, a scientist at the NASA headquarters, points out that with this global model, it is possible to now track solar storms heading toward other planets as well.

The STEREO probes left Earth in October 2006, split up, and headed for their positions on opposite sides of the sun. Feb. 6 was the date of "opposition" — the date when STEREO-A and -B were 180 degrees apart, each looking down on a

SEE NASA, PAGE B8

## Lucy's feet were built for walking, not climbing

By IAN YU  
Staff Writer

Take a close look at any one of your two feet. Note the arch that spans the middle of your foot. Formed by curves in your metatarsus bones, the arch is one of the defining features of the human foot.

The curvature makes the human foot more adept for running rather than grabbing hold of tree limbs. So, from where and when did we get this podiatric feature?

Recent work by researchers at the University of Missouri and Arizona State University examining the remains of an Australopithecus afarensis, an early hominid, found a similar curvature in the extinct hominid's metatarsus.

The remains of this A. afarensis, found in Hadar, Ethiopia, confirm that members of this species were likely responsible for ancient footprints found to have arched feet.

These footprints were discovered in Laetoli, Tanzania and date back to 3.6 million years ago. In a paper published in *Science*, the group details their close examination of the fourth metatarsal of A. afarensis and how it compared with humans and other extent primates.

One of the most famous remains of A. afarensis was discovered back in 1974; given the name "Lucy" by a team who celebrated their discovery by playing and replaying "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," that set of remains constituting 40 percent of the hominid's skeleton supported the idea that bipedal walking developed before larger brain and skull sizes.

Deposits in the Hadar formation have since yielded many more hominid fossils dating back



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Lucy was discovered in 1974 in Ethiopia.



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Analysis of a complete metatarsal from A. afarensis allowed scientists to determine that the early hominid had arched feet.

to 3.2 million years ago.

A number of other partial metatarsals have been found among them, but only a complete metatarsal, discovered in 2000, was able to address the question of whether A. afarensis had arches similar to those of humans.

This discovery also suggests that metatarsal curvature and foot arches appeared much earlier than previously suspected.

"We see humanlike arches in our genus, Homo, around 1.8 million years ago, but there has been no direct evidence from the bones earlier than this time," wrote Carol Ward, professor of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, in an email with *The News-Letter*.

Foot arches are especially crucial in humans, as individuals

who are flat-footed tend to suffer certain physical issues due to insufficient shock absorption.

According to Ward, "arches provide shock absorption during walking and running; this is critical as we all know when people have 'flat feet' or 'fallen arches' they have a host of joint problems throughout their skeletons."

In addition to the developments in the metatarsal bones,

## Neural cells pick and choose what to see

By SAM OHMER  
Staff Writer

Much like a computer compresses pixels into JPEG files, the brain compresses the vast amount of visual information that it must process and store.

Hopkins scientists have found a group of neural cells that play a key role in visual compression by being biased to respond to curved edges instead of straight ones.

Though scientists know what stimuli different parts of our brains prefer, it's often the case that the how or the why of those preferences are unknown. In an effort to change that trend, researchers are constantly investigating the brain and how it interacts with and responds to

the environment. This is an especially active area of research for sensory biologists, who strive to understand how the brain processes information it takes in.

Eric Carlson, Russell Resquinha, Kechen Zhang and Ed Connor of Hopkins are interested in how visual information is processed in a region of the brain called V4.

As Ed Connor explained in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*, the team's newest findings are thanks to "an NIH grant aimed at discovering how

visual processing in the brain is adapted to the specific structure of things in our world, which is shaped by physics, material properties, biological growth mechanisms, gravity, etc. The idea is to analyze the statistics of the visual world, and measure neural tuning in visual parts of the brain, and analyze how they are correlated."

Connor and his team are interested in V4 in particular because this area of the visual cortex has been known to react to and process visual information relating to the specific curvature and orientation of objects.

However, the processes by which this preference arises in V4 are poorly understood — until now. Connor's team has brought together evidence suggesting

that the "compressed" coding scheme of V4 — which emphasizes sparseness in the population of cells involved in information processing — favors sharper or more acute curvature.

Whether acute angle preferences have arisen through evolution due to the need for sparse coding schemes in the brain or whether the benefit of

responding to acute angles has driven the coding scheme in V4 is debatable and at present unclear.

According to Connor, "It may be that the evolution of the bias toward sharper curvature was

driven by other factors . . . or it may be that it was driven by the advantages of compressed neural coding. Either way, the bias does produce compression, and that has important implications for how the brain sees."

The team's findings are based on evidence in both macaque mon-

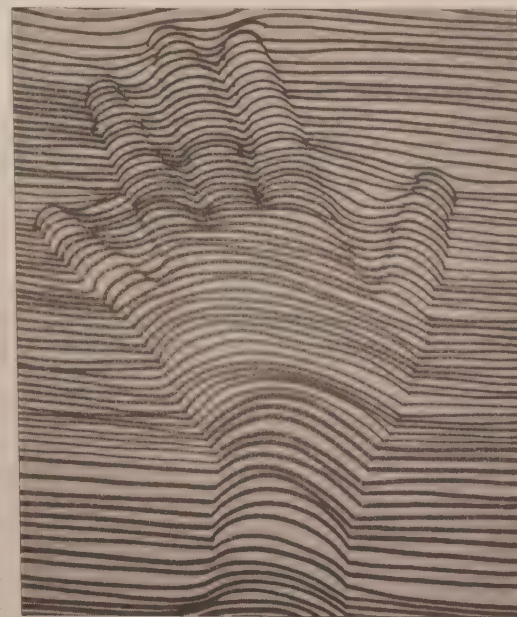
keys and from computer models of V4 cells. By first analyzing the optimal responses of some 165 macaque V4 neurons, the researchers have attempted to characterize the preferences of the individual V4 cells.

The researchers pooled the data they had recorded for the collection of cells in order to assess population biases.

At this point it became obvious that though the orientation preferences of cells vary across the sample set, the preference for acute curvature is well-preserved in V4 neurons.

When simulated V4 neurons are "trained" with images in order to compare computer models with the experimental data, however, the only way the proper re-

SEE BRAIN, PAGE B8



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Certain cells in the brain prefer curved lines over straight ones.

## Bioethics lecture series kicks off with look at stem cell banks

By ANN WANG  
Science & Technology Editor

Hilary Bok, Associate Professor of Bioethics, and Luce Professor in Bioethics and Moral and Political Theory, kicked off the Hopkins Undergraduate Bioethics Society's spring lecture series this Wednesday.

Bok's lecture explored the thorny issues surrounding the potential creation of a national stem cell bank.

One of the most exciting features of stem cell therapy is the ability for a stem cell line to be created using the cells of each individual patient. This would eliminate the issues of immunorejection that plague organ and bone marrow donations.

However, these therapies are "never going to be a good solution for diseases where time is of the essence," Bok said.

If a patient has a stroke or heart attack, for example, the week-long wait for stem cells to be created from his or her own cells would be unrealistic.

One solution is to make "over-the-counter" stem cells available — that is, create a national stem cell line bank.

Obviously, including lines that match every single person is impossible. How should we decide which lines to include and which ones to exclude?

"It turns out that which genetic profile you have, which alleles you have, tends to sort with where your ancestors are from," Bok said. "For the alleles in question, the most common variants

among whites are not the most common variants among African Americans are not the most common variants among east Asians are not the most common variants among North and South Native Americans."

Bok outlined two strategies to answer the question of which stem cell lines should be included.

The first is the cover-maximizing strategy. The stem cell bank would be stocked strictly on the basis of which lines match with the greatest number of people. After all, "a government program should try to help as many citizens as it can," Bok said.

However, the most common genetic variants in the US are the most common genetic variants among Caucasians, simply because the country's population is predominantly Caucasian. Using this strategy, minorities would be significantly underrepresented in the stem cell bank.

An alternative strategy is the equal representation strategy.

This strategy would make sure that equal fractions of eth-

nic groups have equal coverage in the stem cell line bank.

"In order to get close to half the ethnic groups covered, it takes about 20 lines to cover half of whites and 60 lines to cover about half of blacks," Bok said.

Bok held a lively debate with the audience about the pros and cons of each side, as well as possible alternative strategies. For instance, audience members suggested privately funded stem cell line centers, or prioritizing stem cell line development based on what groups are affected by certain diseases such as diabetes.



Speaker Hilary Bok and audience members discussed the fairest way to construct a stem cell line bank.

CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR



# Pregnancy risky for moms with HIV

Preventing premature births, labor complications and transmission are priorities

By ALEENA LAKHANPAL  
Staff Writer

Teens infected with HIV are at a higher risk for pregnancy and complications due to pregnancy than their uninfected peers, Allison Agwu, from the Hopkins Children's Center, has found in a recent study.

Using a Red Cross-affiliated HIV resource network of eighteen sites across the United States, Agwu and her team tried to assess specific trends affecting teenagers with AIDS.

"It's a rich database," Agwu said. "We queried it for any individuals who were pregnant below age 24 and would go back to the site to get additional data. We then queried with a three-page questionnaire regarding the pregnancy, outcomes, length of gestation at birth, etc."

Their findings indicated that teens who contracted the virus behaviorally (unprotected sex or drug abuse) rather than at birth had higher rates of multiple pregnancies. When asked about why that would be, Agwu responded by saying, "That's the million dollar question."

Agwu notes that there are several extraneous factors that could have affected their study.

"This is a bit of a biased sample in that many of [the participants] have been sexually active before. This is a sample that is rich for a higher propensity to become pregnant," said Agwu. "Many of them were more sexually active and that's how they got the disease to begin with."

Agwu emphasized the normalcy of wanting to procreate.

"Getting HIV doesn't mean you don't want what young peo-

ple want — it doesn't necessarily change that," she said. "I think we need to make sure we don't say it's abnormal to have sexual activity, and it's easy for people to look at that diagnosis and say 'You shouldn't do that.'"

She also mentioned how after contracting HIV, the dynamics of a relationship have to change. For example, couples who have not used condoms before may have to begin to do so.

In addition, Agwu said that it is important to remember that some of these pregnancies may have been desired. "These young individuals are struggling with how procreation fits into their lives," she explained.

In particular, it is essential that the diagnosed young women receive the proper care and advice if they do plan to become pregnant. "We have to find the best way to prevent transmission to both the partners and fetuses," said Agwu.

The pregnancies can be fraught with complications, however. "The main thing we worry about is transmission," explained Agwu. "We have to make sure to get [the women] on antiretroviral therapy."

Their studies have indicated a correlation between having the virus and problems during labor and with premature births. However, while such a correlation is intriguing, it might not be attributed only to AIDS; Agwu

hypothesizes that the cause of complications is multifactorial.

Agwu firmly believes that above all, these young women need counseling and care.

"If they want to be pregnant, they're going to do it," Agwu emphasized. "We have to figure out what someone's desire is and figure out the best way to protect them, the partner, and unborn child from transmission."

In their study, Agwu and her team found that many of the participants have been seen by the same provider since they were very young, and related that to how parents don't want to talk about sex with their young children.

"Risk prevention starts

early," she said. "We need to introduce that to the providers, the case workers, outreach workers, risk reduction counselors — this topic needs to be introduced continuously and the parents have to be brought in. This is a full team effort."

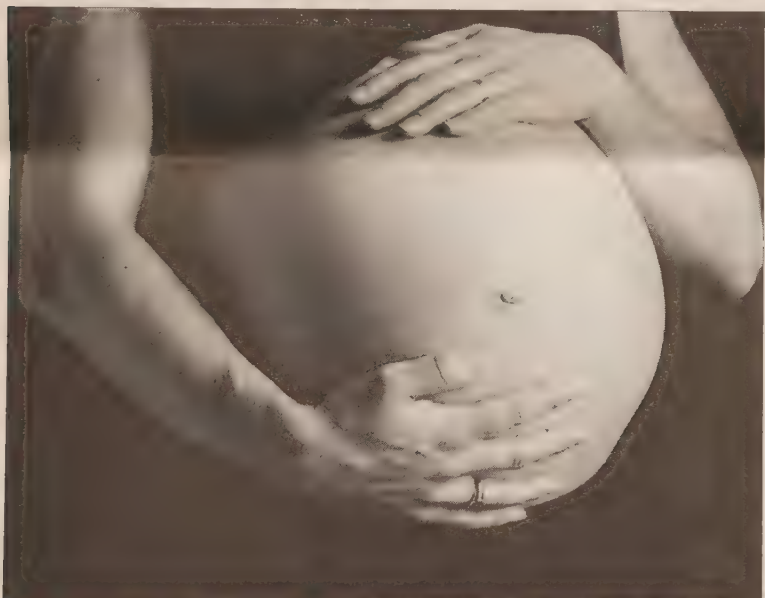
In the late '80s and early '90s, AIDS patients were stereotyped and shunned from society. Even today, although progress has been made in diagnosing and treating the disease, people suffering from AIDS are often still stigmatized, and Agwu wants that to change.

"If we do stigmatize it, then they're not going to disclose [the fact that they have AIDS], and then we have less opportunity to counsel them," she said. She mentioned how there are other factors to be worried about, including sexually transmitted infections.

In addition, she wants to make questions about sex a part of normal care in the populations they have studied. Agwu drove home the point that risk needs to be redefined. "There's a tendency to read the article and have readers thinking about risk as 'oh, she's had multiple partners,' but the prevalence of HIV is so high that we have to recalibrate it. Some of these girls have only had one partner before they were infected."

Getting HIV doesn't mean you don't want what young people want — it doesn't necessarily change that.

— ALLISON AGWU,  
HOPKINS CHILDREN'S  
CENTER



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Pregnant teens who are HIV positive are likelier to give birth prematurely and have labor complications.



COURTESY OF

Super-computers like Deep Blue, which defeated chess champion Garry Kasparov, are still less powerful than a single human brain.

## World's CPU equals 64 human brains

By DAN CADEL  
Staff Writer

This week, a computer named Watson beat two of the all-time greatest champions of *Jeopardy!* on national television. Watson, an IBM super-computer named after founder Thomas J. Watson, won both games during the three-day special, and donated his million dollar winnings to World Vision and World Community Grid.

Despite the computer's humanitarian tendencies, Watson has caused worry among many in the general public; is it only time before we begin to bow down to our robot overlords?

A recent study in *Science* points to just the opposite. The study, led by Martin Hilbert of USC and Priscilla Lopez of Open University of Catalonia, found that the total computing power of the entire world is roughly equivalent to that of 64 human brains.

Watson is not the first time computers have raised fear and suspicion in the general public. In 1997, a computer named Deep Blue beat the world chess champion, Garry Kasparov.

Whereas this required complex reasoning and strategy, this week's events with Watson required the ability to understand and interpret questions, and then search for the correct answer. Both events represent major milestones in the development of more powerful, efficient and "intelligent" computers.

However, according to Hilbert and Lopez, together, these computers are less powerful than a single human brain.

The team estimated the total amount of information stored

in various forms of analog and digital devices, and normalized the results to accommodate for differences in compression formats. The results were surprising, though not entirely predictable.

Digital media held the largest share in most categories. In terms of storage, digital accounted for 94 percent of the world's storage in 2007, when data was collected.

In telecommunications by comparison, digital represents only 25 percent, a number that is likely much higher now that the standard for broadcasting has been switched to digital in the United States.

"We see our major contribution not necessarily in the specific numbers that we presented," Hilbert wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*, "but in the methodology that we propose. The main reasons that social scientists have not yet measured the amount of information that is processed by social systems is because (a) there was no ready-to-use methodology to do so unambiguously, and (b) statistics on the issue are very scarce and scattered. We proposed a new methodology

for how to measure information directly."

Hilbert has conducted this type of study a total of four times, with data from 1986, 1993, 2000 and 2007. Again, results prove predictable trends: information has been increasing across the board. Most significantly, computational power has increased 58 percent for general-purpose computations, and 83 percent for application-specific computation (microcontrollers, for example).

"We will have to understand the differential effects between 'more' (quantity) and 'better' information (information quality, which aims at 'meaning' and 'value' of information)," said Hilbert. "This will be one of the major tasks on the research agenda of social science for the years to come. In this sense, information quality will be defined as the residuum of information quantity."

This study, if nothing else, proves one thing: studies to measure the net processing capability of the entire world are possible. With this foundation, enlightening discoveries will certainly be made.

## How much information can the world store?

In 2007 humans ...

-Stored 295 exabytes ( $10^{18}$ ) of information — equivalent to 61 CDs per person.

-Received 1.9 zettabytes ( $10^{21}$ ) of information — the informational equivalent of 174 newspapers per person per day.

-Telecommunicated 64 exabytes ( $10^{18}$ ) of information.

-Computed  $6.4 \times 10^{18}$  instructions per second to computers.

— Martin Hilbert, USC

## Brain's V4 zone responds more strongly to curved surfaces

BRAIN, FROM B7

sponses (i.e. preference for acute curvature in a certain orientation) are acquired is when the population of simulated V4 cells is constrained to operate under a sparse coding paradigm.

Thus, by limiting the number of cells allowed to respond to each stimuli, Connor's team has been able to mimic the same acute curvature bias seen in live V4 neurons.

Based on the computer simulations of V4 cells, the team has found that such acute curvature preferences only arise when the number of responsive cells in V4 is limited by a factor of about eight.

Outside of the sparseness involved in coding visual information, the manner in which V4 responds to the environment is interesting in that the curvatures it responds to are generally found very rarely in nature.

However, these sorts of angles are highly informative for image processing when they do occur, so even a small number of acute curves brought together can allow for the accurate perception of an object's identity — another source of sparse coding in V4, it would seem.

That the brain engages in the same "compression" of data as do computers is striking but not surprising, according to Connor.

Because the brain handles so much information coming in and going out every second of every

minute of every day, in order to effectively deal with all the data and allow for useful analysis of sensory info, some information must be eliminated or compressed or the brain would overload very quickly.

Usually this compression doesn't cause any loss of quality because not every detail in a scene is strictly necessary or important.

While Connor and his team's work has been extremely important for defining the mechanisms by which the brain encodes and processes visual information, the field isn't finished yet.

According to Connor, "The notion of compressed coding ('sparse coding') is ubiquitous — compression is considered to be one of the key functions of visual processing. This is the first study looking at compression mechanisms beyond the first visual processing stage in the brain (area V1). Our study suggests that compression is an important goal at higher levels, and suggests that it may be achieved by focusing on less common visual features that provide lots of information."

"The next step is to apply the same approach to higher level visual processing regions in the brain, that deal with larger chunks of the visual field and more complex object structure. At this larger, more complex scale, we expect the relationships between brain and world to be even more striking."

V4 is only a midlevel visual processing station, so it is likely that by studying other visual areas, researchers may discover the brain's secrets for coding even more complex information in similarly parsimonious manners.



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More complex visual information may be coded the same way.

## NASA's STEREO probes detect solar activity on sun's far side

NASA, FROM B7

different hemisphere.

NASA's Earth-orbiting Solar Dynamics Observatory is also monitoring the Sun 24/7. Together, the STEREO-SDO fleet should be able to image the entire globe for the next eight years.

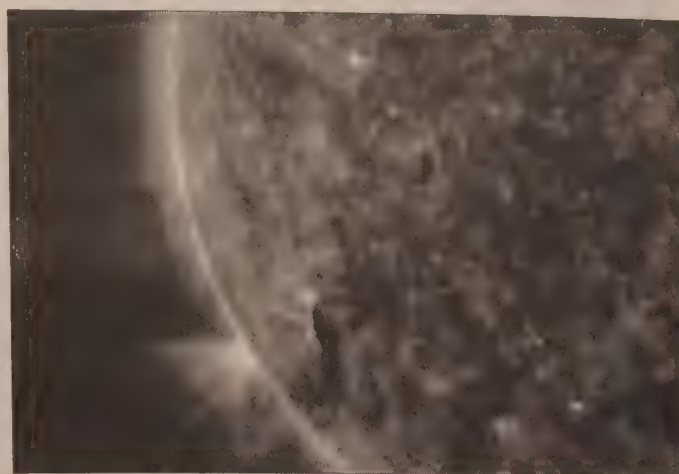
This new view could reveal connections that were previously overlooked.

For instance, researchers have long suspected that eruptions on opposite sides of the sun can "go global," that is, trigger and feed off of one another. Now, it is possible for them to actually study the phenomenon.

The Great Eruption of August 2010 engulfed about two-thirds

of the Sun's surface with several mutually interacting flares, shock waves and reverberating filaments. While much of the action was hidden from Earth, it was clearly visible to the STEREO-SDO fleet.

Thanks to the success of the four-year long mission of STEREO, designed by scientists at the Applied Physics Laboratory from our very own university, we have managed to gain an unprecedented view of the Sun which will enhance our knowledge of solar dynamics and improve space weather forecasts. Researchers say these first-look whole Sun images are just the beginning of what is yet to come.



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Scientists at Hopkins' Applied Physical Laboratory helped design the STEREO probes.





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The Laetoli footprints provided the earliest evidence for arched feet in early hominids.

## Lucy's feet were stiff and arched for running

LUCY, FROM B7

an additional development that led to the human feet being adept for running rather than climbing was the stiffening of the foot, where the individual bones of the feet are confined and have considerably less freedom than those of our hands.

"Also, the human feet are stiff so that when we lift our heels off of the ground the whole foot lifts up, this provides propulsion. An ape's foot flexes in the middle," she wrote.

The most significant finding

of the study is that arched feet and bipedal motion developed much earlier than previously believed by scientists.

"This shows that the foot arches are as ancient as committed terrestrial bipedality, and supports the hypothesis that *A. afarensis* were committed bipeds like us," Ward wrote.

She also notes that another species she is currently working with, *A. anamensis*, dates back even further to 4.2 million years ago, although it is not as well represented in the fossil record.

By ANN WANG  
Science & Technology Editor

Why aren't we taller? I usually ask myself this question several times a week, whether I'm hopping on my kitchen counters to get the salt, carting a stepstool around lab to reach the buffers on the top shelves, or when people standing next to me rest their elbows on my shoulders.

According to the CDC, the average height for both men and women in the US has increased about an inch in the last 50 years. But why is the average height for an adult American male just over five feet nine inches instead of, say, four feet? Or seven feet?

It makes intuitive sense that there would be a happy medium for human height.

For example, if Shaquille O'Neal and I were arm wrestling over a steak, there's no question I'd be going hungry. On the other hand, I'd only need one steak to be full and I'm guessing Shaq would need something like six.

However, the answer to how we evolved to be as tall as we are has less to do with arm wrestling and more with how fast we can throw.

How you can throw a baseball goes up with the mass and length of your muscles — in other words, how tall you are. Our prehistorical ancestors probably didn't engage in the great American past-time, but they did



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Sultan Kosen, who stands at eight feet one inch, is currently listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest living person.

need to throw rocks and spears to hunt.

When you throw a rock, the force with which the rock hits its target (such as a juicy mammoth) is proportional to the square of how fast the rock is moving. More specifically, the trauma the rock inflicts is related to the rock's kinetic energy — one half its mass times its velocity squared.

Factoring in your mass, which goes up with the cube of your height, your ability to kill prey increases roughly proportionate

to your height to the fifth power.

So then why didn't our ancestors get taller and taller?

You've seen little kids fall down, pick themselves up, and run off without a scratch. Can you imagine a giraffe doing the same thing?

The damage you do to yourself when you fall, like the damage you can do throwing a rock, also goes up with your mass and the square of the speed with which you hit the ground.

Additionally, the mass of food

you need to consume goes up with your mass — which is proportionate to the cube of your height.

Since our ability to throw a rock or sphere increases with our height to the fifth power, a small increase in height meant a significant increase in hunting ability.

Combined with the negative consequences of increasing height, our ancestors found that they didn't need to be all that tall to be effective hunters. Learning to dunk — that's another story.

## Briefs



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Cut marks and smoothing found on the skull-cups indicate that the shape was purposeful.

## Raise your glass: Ice Age partiers drank from skull mugs

British paleoanthropologists recently reported the discovery of 14,700-year old skull cups in the journal *PLoS One*.

The skulls were found in Gough's Cave in Somerset, England.

Based on radiocarbon dating, the artifacts are the oldest directly dated skull cups known.

Gough's Cave is situated in the Cheddar Gorge, a deep limestone canyon on the southern edge of the Mendip Hills.

The site is particularly noteworthy for the discovery in 1903 of "Cheddar Man," the complete skeleton of a male individual dating to about 10,000 years ago.

The three human braincases, two from adults and one from a child, were carefully skinned and cleaned with flint tools.

The soft tissue was removed and possibly consumed, leaving a well-shaped cup. Skulls used as cups, which often show cut-marks from flesh removal and working to produce a regular lip, can be distinguished from plain skulls.

Old historical accounts have long held that other societies used skull cups for ritual purposes.

Herodotus reported that the Scythians, a nomadic Indo-European tribe, were believed to use skull cups to drink the blood of their enemies. As late as the 19th century, skull cups were reportedly used in Fiji and other islands in Oceania.

However, most of these stories are based on hearsay and legend. Archeological evidence of skull-cups has been rare.

The oldest known specimens date to the Upper Paleolithic period in Western Europe, 12,000 to 15,000 years ago, from the Magdalenian culture, which spread from Portugal to western Poland. None of those artifacts, however, were directly dated.

A cast of one of the skull cups will be on display at the Natural History Museum in London for three months, starting Mar. 1.

## Seaweed-like fossils discovered in China may be oldest plants

The recent discovery of seaweed-like fossils in southern China may represent some of the oldest plants ever discovered.

The series of fossils, described in the journal *Nature*, predates actual species of seaweed by approximately 20-56 million years.

Until now, the earliest evidence of complex creatures resembling modern organisms was about 580 million years old.

While multicellular organisms began appearing about two billions years ago, they did not have modern physical forms.

Paleontologists believed that such organisms did not evolve until 635 million years ago. However, until now, they lacked the fossil evidence for their theory.

The newly discovered fossils fit into the gap.

The appearance of complex multicellular organisms coincides with the end of the "snowball" Earth, a period when the planet was covered completely with glaciers.

No longer trapped beneath ice, life forms could emerge and colonize the barren planet. With a plethora of new environments, organisms evolved rapidly.

The author of the study, Shuhai Xiao of Virginia Tech, found the specimens in a rocky outcrop located in the southern Anhui Province of China.

Survey geologists decades ago discovered rich fossil beds but were unable to make accurate age estimates.

In order to date the rocks, Xiao compared rocks from the site to similar rocks found around the world.

The fossils proved to be sandwiched between layers laid down between 580 million and 635 million years ago.

Xiao also said that more studies need to be conducted in order to determine the geochemistry and environment in which these organisms arose.

## Researchers study how dinosaur claws became bird wings

Genetic and fossil evidence supports the theory that birds evolved from dinosaurs approximately 150 million years ago.

However, how that transformation process occurred remains largely unknown.

A new study, published in *Science*, involving baby chicks may help clear up a mystery of how one of those changes occurred — how dinosaur hands transformed into bird wings.

Theropods, the family of dinosaurs from which birds evolved, had four digits. Modern birds only have three digits.

Thus, during the process of evolution, a digit had to be lost. However, which one?

In the new study, Japanese researchers led by Koji Tamura of Tohoku University transplanted certain cells from the feet to the wings and vice versa of develop-

ing chicks.

The transplanted cells, during normal development, are destined to grow into digit four.

The researchers found evidence that the last digit of the wing does not correspond to the last digit of the foot. This supports the theory that the wing, unlike the foot, does not have a digit four.

Then the team mapped out digit development using cell-labeling techniques, which allowed them to track the cells as they develop into the various digits.

They found that by 3.5 days of embryonic development, a shift occurs, causing cells in the progenitor region for digit four to move forward and grow into digit three. The same shift occurs for the digits that become one and two.

While the shift in cell identity explains why birds only have three digits, it does not necessarily quell the debate on the origin of birds.

Some scientists argue that birds and theropods in fact diverged much earlier in evolutionary history and share a much more distant common ancestor.

The recent study proves nothing because it does not explain the selective advantage for having only three digits instead of four.

## X-rays reveal the hidden legs of ancient snakes

A recent analysis of a 95-million year old snake fossil may shed new light on how snakes lost their legs.

X-ray analysis of the fossil, found in Lebanon, reveals two small leg bones attached to the serpent's pelvis.

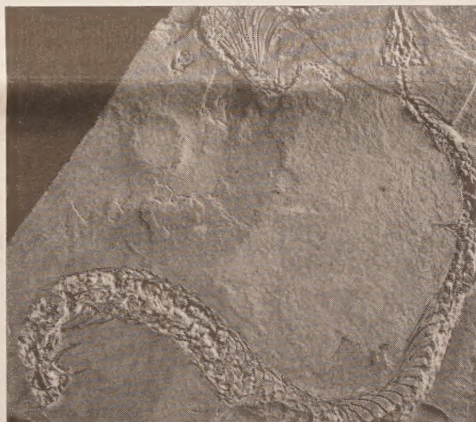
The fossil is from an era when snakes had not yet completely lost their hind limbs, remnants of their lizard ancestors. The snake, called *Eupodophis descouensi*, is approximately 19 inches long.

Paleontologists have long argued the origins of snakes.

Some scientists believe that the snake's lizard ancestors originated in the sea while others think that its ancestors were

land-dwelling burrowing lizards.

Researchers used a technique called synchrotron-radiation computed laminography (SRCL). Similar to the computed tomog-



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The Lebanon fossil is one of only three snake found with legs.

raphy (CT) scan used in the medical profession, SRCL uses x-rays to image the internal structure of the fossil at greater resolution.

The scan revealed a hidden leg, bent at the knee but lacking foot and toe bones. The arrangement of the bones is similar to that of terrestrial lizards.

Based on the structure of the bones, researchers concluded that genetic changes did not cause snakes to immediately lose their leg bones.

Rather, accumulated mutations caused the limbs to either grow slower or for a shorter period of time, effectively causing the length of the leg bones to decrease over time.

The experiment was groundbreaking in that it was the first time the SRCL technique was used in paleontology.

The next step will be to study the other few hind-limb snake fossils. The researchers report their results in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.



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Timid and naturally solitary, foxes are much more difficult to domesticate than wolves.

## Domesticated foxes may have been man's first best friend

Move over Fido.

In an ancient burial site in northern Jordan, archeologists have discovered the remains of a red fox buried alongside a human. The site dates back 16,000 years, several millennia before the first domesticated animals.

If confirmed, the fossil find will suggest that humans kept pets as early as 16,000 years ago. Other objects found in the graves include stone tools, a spoon made out of bone and the remains of other animals including deer, gazelle and cattle.

The study, led by Cambridge researcher Lisa Maher, was published in the journal *PLoS One*.

Initially, researchers thought the remains were that of a dog. Previous excavations a few thousand years younger than the Jordan site have shown humans buried with dogs. However, upon further analysis, scientists determine the skeleton was, in fact, that of a fox.

It is possible to domesticate red fox. However, due to the animal's timid nature, it is much more difficult to tame a fox than a dog. This may explain why dogs ended up becoming the animal of choice.

That the fox was a pet is only one of several possibilities. The animal may have, instead, had some spiritual or totemic significance to the culture. However, the manner by which the fox was buried suggests that there was a greater emotional connection between the human and the fox found in the grave.

— All briefs by Husain Danish



SPORTS

# D'Amore's debut lifts women's lacrosse past George Mason

By ALEX SARGEAUNT  
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's lacrosse team started the season off on an excellent note, defeating George Mason 19-9 under the howling Homewood winds on Saturday, Feb. 19th.

Freshman midfielder Taylor D'Amore tallied five goals and an assist in her first regular season game in a Blue Jay uniform. Juniors Colleen McCaffrey, Rachel Ballatori and Candace Rossi combined for 11 points with six goals and five assists collectively.

The Patriots of George Mason dropped to 0-2 on the season, and the Jays began 1-0 for the 11th time under head coach Janine Tucker.

Hopkins took control early with a 3-0 run sparked by D'Amore's finish off of a nifty pass from McCaffrey a minute and a half in, followed by a pair of goals from senior Brianna Cronin and Rossi.

George Mason also had a freshman replace the goose egg after midfielder Anna Kopecka snuck one past the Blue Jay defense with 25:24 remaining in the opening half.

The Jays answered this with a debilitating 4-0 run for the next 13 minutes with unassisted goals from junior defender Alyssa Kildare and sophomore Katie Duffy. McCaffrey and D'Amore continued to contribute with a pair of scores to make it 7-1 with 14:29 on the clock.

A couple of unassisted Patriot goals brought them within four with 7:39 left, but that was as near as they would get. The half ended with a 12-4 Hopkins lead and momentum that didn't shift during the intermission.

McCaffrey opened the second half with her second goal of the afternoon assisted by Ballatori 53 seconds in. D'Amore contributed her fourth on a ridiculous goal off Rossi's feed to complete a 7-1 run that bridged the two halves and put the game away.

Sophomore goalkeeper Co-sette Larash, who started 16 games last season, was solid posting nine saves giving her a save percentage of 50 percent. She was also able to complete 11

of her 14 clears.

The Hopkins defense was just as impressive in front of her, causing 11 turnovers compared to George Mason's four. Larash, junior Alyssa Kildare and Rossi led the way in this category with two each.

Ground balls, always a key indicator of a team's overall success, also favored the Jays 19-17, with Larosh and Kildare each picking up five.

It was Hopkins's offensive prowess and efficiency that was the most impressive aspect of their performance. They not only outshot George Mason 36-25, but also were able to convert on 52.8 percent of them compared to 36 percent by the Patriots.

This will be more difficult once they begin competing against some of the nation's powerhouse squads. When the Jays travel to N.J. to take on the Princeton Tigers, they will find themselves firing shots against All-American goalie Erin Tochihara.

According to D'Amore this means that the team's ability to consistently finish will be a huge key to success against great opponents.

"As we play higher ranked teams I don't think we will get as many shots per game so we're going to have to focus on finishing the opportunities we do get. Saturday was a step in the right direction," she said.

D'Amore was not the only freshman to show promise on opening day. Four freshmen in total tallied the first points of their college careers. Ana Henrich and Sammy Cermack had a goal each and Sarah Taylor contributed with an assist.

The sophomores, led by Larash and Katie Duffy, who had two goals in the George Mason contest, will also play a huge role as the season progresses.

The ability for young players

to be effective right off the bat is usually an indication of strong, selfless leadership.

D'Amore credits the juniors and seniors. "We look to the

The ladies were relentless in their offensive strike against the Mountaineers. By the time the half rolled around, the score was 12-1.



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Junior Rachel Ballatori has four goals in two games so far this season, starting at attack in both.

upperclassmen for leadership and they have been a great help to all of the freshman from the minute we stepped foot on campus, helping us adjust in every way."

The experience these ladies are gaining early on can only mean bright things for the near future as Hopkins continues to take steps in becoming a consistent National Championship contender.

The Jays added their second win on Wednesday. They held the home field advantage against Mount St. Mary's, winning 17-4.

Rossi took charge against the Mountaineers, landing five goals. Eight other Jays scored over the course of the game.

The first goal of the game was scored by McCaffrey, who managed three scores in the game, securing a hat trick. She was joined by Ballatori and junior Cami Kramer, who both scored two goals.

# Spring training signals fresh start for all 30 MLB teams

By MIKE KANEN  
Sports Editor

Hope springs eternal when pitchers and catchers report for every team in baseball, but this year could see a host of new faces come fall. Here's my breakdown of what you might expect in each division after a busy off-season.

**AL East:** A speedster and masher move in with a monster, a checkbook is kept behind its pinstripes, a skipper gets some new birds, a bad contract flies west and a youth movement is officially underway... again.

**Winner:** Boston Red Sox. And why not? The Sawx had a formidable lineup a year ago, but had a down year (89 wins) in large part due to injuries to infielders Kevin Youkilis and Dustin Pedroia. Now, those two are healthy, Jon Lester and Clay Buchholz are coming off career years, and Carl Crawford, Adrian Gonzalez, and a host of bullpen pieces make them my World Series winners.

**Bold Prediction:** Baltimore Orioles finish in third. Do I see it actually happening? Well, maybe. Would I put money on it? Hmmm. Hence bold. In traditional Andy MacPhail fashion, the O's will rely on young, farm-produced arms like Brian Matusz surrounded by big name offensive players like additions Vlad Guerrero and Derrek Lee. Baltimore showed vast improvement under Buck Showalter late last year, so don't rule it out.

**AL Central:** A new Japanese experiment, a big donkey, a DUI charge, a quiet tribe and a ton of help on the way.

**Winner:** Minnesota Twins. Again, why not? Time and time again they find a way to win. Despite losing Matt Guerrier and Jesse Crain to free agency, the return of Joe Nathan and Pat Neshek off Tommy John surgeries can not be understated. Add a full-season of Justin Morneau and big question marks in Jake Peavy and Miguel Cabrera, and the pennant will fly high in Twinkie Town.

**Bold Prediction:** Delmon Young is an MVP candidate. Drafted first overall in 2003 out of high school, Young already seems to have been around forever. In reality though, he will be just 25 years old all season, coming off a year in which he hit .298 with 21 home runs, 112 RBI's, and had a career-low in strikeouts. And he did most of that without the concussed Morneau in the lineup. Watch out.

**AL West:** A lone star upset, a little help for the arms, an off-season from hell and a shutout every game would be nice, please.

**Winner:** Oakland Athletics. Yes, I know the Rangers are the defending AL champs, but their off-season was unproductive (more soon). The A's, on the other hand, added some interesting pieces in David DeJesus, Hideki Matsui and Josh Willingham that should give the modern version of Zito-Mulder-Hudson (Anderson-Gonzalez-Cahill) just enough support to win the division.

**Bold Prediction:** Texas Rangers finish in third. Michael Young/Adrian Beltre conundrum aside, they missed out on Cliff Lee and that was huge. Although Lee was not the nail-in-the-door kind of pitcher he was in October, August and September, he did take pressure off of CJ Wilson and Colby Lewis. Their pitching staff is noticeably weaker than Oakland's, Seattle's and lest we forget the Angels (Jered Weaver, Dan Haren), and that folks, will not win this division.

**Wild Card:** New York Yankees. So what if they didn't get Cliff Lee — they got Bartolo Colon, Freddy Garcia, and (my favorite) Mark Prior! Yes, the Yankees's pitching staff is a big worry after CC Sabathia and Phil Hughes, but it wasn't so different a year ago. Their offense is once again so prolific that the result will be the exact same — wild card.

**NL East:** A sneak-attack signing, a big (apple) money disaster, a second baseman gained,

a second baseman lost and an earth-shattering \$126 million over seven years.

**Winner:** Philadelphia Phillies. Their rotation was already arguably the best in baseball with Roy Halladay, Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels. Now Cliff Lee enters the picture. As long as the offense doesn't drift away from being the Chase Utley, Ryan Howard, Jimmy Rollins combination we know and love, the Phillies will be in October.

**Bold Prediction:** Florida Marlins win the wild card. Technically the Fish are overdue after winning the World Series in 1997 and 2003 as a wild card, their only playoff appearances. Even without franchise cornerstone Dan Uggla who was shipped to division rival Atlanta, the Marlins still feature one of baseball's most underrated lineups littered with young talent in up-and-comers Mike Stanton, Gaby Sanchez and Logan Morrison to go with rotation stalwart Josh Johnson and Co.

**NL Central:** A pitching staff makeover, a bundle of contract extensions, a \$300 million elephant in the room, a 102-year World Series drought, a spring sans Killer B's and a good thing these fans have the Stealers.

**Winner:** Milwaukee Brewers. Forget the Packers. With Prince Fielder's contract set to expire after the season, general manager Doug Melvin did his best to give cheese heads another championship. By trading for a healthy Shaun Marcum and Cy Young award winner Zack Greinke, the Brew Crew looks as dangerous as any other team in the National League.

**Bold prediction:** Milwaukee Brewers go to the World Series. Despite sharing a division with the young and now experienced Reds, Pujols's contract year Cardinals, my Cubbies, and owning a shaky defense and relatively untested bullpen, the Brewers have a legitimate shot at the pennant because of their starting pitching additions. Pair Marcum and Greinke with Yovani Gallardo, Randy Wolf, and a host of sluggers, and Milwaukee has the rotation, lineup and urgency to take down the Phillies come October.

**NL West:** A pair of mile-high extensions, a Donny Baseball comeback, a World Series Champ, a pair of zapatos too big to fill and a couple of top ten draft choices come June.

**Winner:** Colorado Rockies. The Rockies have waited until late August to win the Wild Card twice since 2007, but this is the year they pull away with the division in July. While every other team in the West has a concern or two, the Rockies are sound all the way around. Ubaldo Jimenez, Troy Tulowitzki and Carlos Gonzalez are all coming off career years, and there's little reason to think they won't take another step forward this spring.

**Bold prediction:** San Francisco Giants finish in fourth. Yes, the Giants return one of baseball's greatest starting rotations from their World Series title squad, but the fact is, their offense overperformed last year, and there's a fat chance it will happen again. Buster Posey will be an absolute force at and behind the plate, but unless Pablo Sandoval turns it around, don't expect more career years from Aubrey Huff, Pat Burrell, and Andres Torres to lead the Gigantes to the playoffs.

**NL Wild Card:** Cincinnati Reds. I'd like to pick the Marlins here, but the Reds return virtually the same team that helped them win the NL Central in 2010, and they now have experience playing in big games down the stretch. Still, Cincy will settle for the wild card, not because of their bats Joey Votto and Jay Bruce or arms Johnny Cueto and Edinson Volquez, but because of a big drop-off from 36-year-old third baseman Scott Rolen who hit just three home runs in the second half last season.

The 2010 campaign finished in unexpected fashion, so who is to say 2011 won't be just as crazy? The Major League regular season kicks off on March 31st with our hometown Orioles opening at Camden Yards on April 4th.

# W. Fencing wins second consecutive EWFC championship

By MIKE KANEN  
Sports Editor

On the heels of two impressive weekends that included mighty victories over Maryland and Virginia Tech at the JHU Invitational and then Tufts and Fairleigh Dickinson amongst others in Hoboken, N.J. a week ago, the Hopkins women's fencing team returned to Hoboken this weekend.

The Jays won six straight duels to claim their second consecutive Eastern Women's Fencing Conference championship.

The tournament, which was hosted by Stevens Tech, began on Saturday for the Lady Jays against Yeshiva. Hopkins got off on the right foot early, crushing Yeshiva 23-4.

The Jays got several shut-outs in the bout, led by senior co-captain Mary Vitale in the Sabre, junior Colleen Stone in the Foil, and sophomore Komal Kumar in the Epee.

Hopkins's next match was against the Fords of Haverford, a team that handed the Jays a 15-12 loss just two weeks ago in Baltimore. This time, though, it was Hopkins who prevailed, winning a tight battle 17-10 and sweeping all three events.

Freshman Kathleen Simeon paced the Jays in the Sabre, help-

ing clinch a 5-4 victory. In the Foil, the Jays again squeaked by 5-4, this time with assistance from freshman Jackie Heath's 3-0 decision. In the Epee, junior co-

captain Lauren Chinn won her bout 3-0 to give the Jays a more relaxed 7-2 win.

Next up was Drew University, a simple task for Hopkins

who dominated for a 25-2 win via convincing duels by freshman Kathleen Rand, junior Jenny Lenz, sophomore Diane Duros and junior Jen Hession.

The Jays' fourth match was against host and eventual second-place finisher Stevens Tech. Despite falling in the Epee 6-3, Hopkins gave themselves enough room with big wins in the Foil and Sabre thanks to junior Marion Trumbull and Heath in the Foil.

The fifth match of the afternoon did not slow the Jays' flight as they coasted to an easy 23-4 win over CCNY.

In their EWFC finale, Hopkins survived an early scare against Hunter who got out to a lead with a win in the Sabre. Strong matches in the Foil and Epee, however, allowed the Lady Jays to escape with a 19-8 win and another conference title. Freshman Liz Caris had a clutch 2-0 win in the Epee.

The team reached a few milestones on the day, as Chinn won her 200th bout and Kumar and Stone each won their 100th match.

With a team title under their belt, the Jays head back to N.J. next weekend for the EWFC individual championships. The same weekend, Hopkins will also compete in the U.S. Squad Weapon Championships in N.Y.



COURTESY OF KOMAL KUMAR  
Women's fencing has now won ten straight matches dating back to last weekend.

## BLUE JAY ATHLETICS SCOREBOARD

### M. LACROSSE

Saturday, February 19:

Hopkins 10, Towson 6

Tuesday, February 22:

Hopkins 18, Delaware 5

### W. LACROSSE

Saturday, February 19:

Hopkins 19,

George Mason 9

Wednesday, February 23:

Hopkins 17, Mt. St. Mary's 4

### W. FENCING

Sunday, February 20:

Hopkins 23, CCNY 4

Hopkins 17, Haverford 10

Hopkins 19, Hunter 8

Hopkins 17, Stevens Tech 10

Hopkins 23, Yeshiva 4

Hopkins 25, Drew 2

### M. BASKETBALL

Saturday, February 19:

Hopkins 74, Washington 64

### TRACK

Saturday, February 19:

NYU Invitational

Men placed 6th out of 9

Women placed 4th out of 9

### SWIMMING

Wednesday February 16-

Saturday February 19:

Bluegrass Mountain  
Championships

Men place 2nd

Women place 1st



## SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK  
JON ALBERICI - MEN'S BASKETBALLBy ERIC GOODMAN  
For The News-Letter

John Alberici is like any other second semester senior you might find here at Hopkins. Between searching for jobs, hanging out with friends, doing schoolwork and squeezing in some *Call of Duty*, on paper he may not necessarily stand out.

But on the court this season, his 6-foot-8-inch frame and serious hoop skills turned him into one of the leaders of the men's basketball team.

Those skills were on display this past Saturday in his final collegiate game as Alberici poured in career highs of 29 points and 12 rebounds in a 74-64 win against Washington College on Senior Day.

While the Jays finished with a disappointing record this year, the season-ending victory

was a pleasant way for Alberici, one of two seniors and the only one to play all four years at Hopkins, to end his basketball playing career.

"I definitely love the guys and coaches, and the win this past week was a nice way to go out," Alberici said. "We played really well and to have my family there and have it be a home game was a special way to go out."

While Saturday's contest was not a must win game for the Jays, the fact that they could avenge an earlier season loss to the Shoremen at home was certainly appealing.

Alberici played a team high 34 minutes out of a possible 40 in which time he connected on 12 of 14 field goal attempts, converted five of seven free throws, and finished with zero turnovers. Although the Jays started off slow this sea-

son, the team finished 3-3 in February, and Alberici averaged 13.2 points per game for the month.

In the seven Blue Jay wins this season, he averaged 12.1 points per

game, up from his total season average of 8.6. Alberici put up these stats despite often facing double teams from opposing defenses.

For the player known by his friends and teammates as "Cheech" (a nickname he says he has had since high school, although he has no idea how his college friends found out about it) his four years at Hopkins have been incredibly rewarding and worthwhile both on and off the court.

Although he only saw action in six games during his sophomore season due to an illness, during his career Alberici scored 473 points, grabbed 135 rebounds and blocked 45 shots (17th all-time in Hopkins history). His career field goal percentage of 51.9 is good for 16th all time, one spot behind Andy Enfield, Hopkins basketball's all-time leading scorer.

"He's been a big factor for us," head coach Bill Nelson said. "His leadership and captaincy will be tough to replace."

Off the court, the political science major cherishes the friendships and connections he has made over the last few years.

"The personal relationships I've developed have been the best part about the school," he said. "The main reason the school initially attracted me was the academic reputation, but starting with the guys I met on the team when I was a freshman and continuing throughout the years, I've made a

lot of great friends."

As for being one of the tallest kids on campus, Alberici definitely feels it's a good thing.

"Growing up I guess I had that awkward stage where I was way taller than everyone else. But I've gotten used to it and I embrace it."

One of his friendships has been with his co-captain on the team, senior Mike Henrici, with whom he shares a lot in common. Both Alberici and Henrici hail from the suburbs of Philadelphia, are roommates, and interned this past summer together at Merrill Lynch in Baltimore.

The two trained together while they were here at Hopkins this summer, working with their strength and conditioning coach in order to prepare for the season.

From Nelson's perspective, Alberici and Henrici were crucial in keeping the young team in good spirits during a tough season.

"John and Mike had the job of trying to lead a team that was pretty much sophomores and freshmen, and they kept the team together," he said. "The players really look up to them and respect them."

The great thing about John is that he could handle criticism; sometimes he'd get a little down because of what was going on with the team, but the next day he'd be same old John — he is just a positive person."

Alberici's career at Hopkins has come to a close, but his legacy will stand tall for a long time.

VITAL  
STATISTICSYear: Senior  
Major: Political Sci.

Alberici, one of the Hopkins men's basketball team's two captains, finished his Blue Jay career in storybook fashion, scoring a career high 29 points with another career high 12 rebounds. Alberici finishes his career 16th all-time in field goal percentage.



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior forward Jon Alberici closed out his Hopkins career in impressive fashion.

Men's lacrosse  
takes Towson,  
Delaware to  
start season

M. LACROSSE, FROM B12

Despite a few setbacks, Pietramala seemed to be happy with the overall outcome of the Towson game.

"That we violated early in the game was the most disappointing part," he said in reference to the numerous times Hopkins would violate during face-offs. "But I was most pleased about how when they were up by one, we were able to handle it. [That's] really a testament to some of the younger guys."

The Jays started seven underclassmen in the opening contest, but were unphased in large part due to the experience and leadership displayed throughout the game by Wharton and Boland, another team captain.

"[Our upperclassmen] are critical to these younger guys in games like this," Pietramala said.

Hopkins's defense was top-notch, preventing opportunities to score on young Hopkins goalie Bassett.

"We had a great defensive game plan, were working hard... [and had] great communication [during the game]," Bassett said.

The team win carried over into Tuesday night when all the Jays did some growing up, wrecking the 16th ranked Blue Hens of Delaware, 18-5.

The victory at Delaware was led by sophomore Zach Palmer, who found the net four times during the game. Wharton and freshman Eric Ruhl both had three goals on the day.

Sophomore goalkeeper Pierce Bassett had a solid performance with 11 saves out of 29 shots by the Blue Hens.

These two recent games should foreshadow a strong season for the men's lacrosse team. The Jays will play their home opener at Homewood Field this Saturday at 1:00 p.m. against Siena.

## Men's and women's track set records at NYU

By RYAN KAHN  
Staff Writer

With conferences on the horizon for both the men and women's track and field teams, both were looking to make strong statements at the NYU team competition at the Armory Track and Field Center.

Sophomore Ben Press and junior Luke Sand both broke school records to take their events and helped the Jays tally 61 team points. This put them in an impressive sixth place.

In the 1000-meter, Press set the new school record with a first place finish of 2:32.18. This time shattered his previous indoor time of the season by over eight seconds. Sand set another school record of 15 meters in the shot put after setting one last week at the BU Valentine Invitational.

"We had a whole bunch of personal records for both boys and girls, so it looks like everybody is peaking at the right time for conferences this week," said Sand on his team's recent success and confidence.

"I've been really happy with my season so far and I'm really looking to pop one this weekend at Haverford. Breaking the record is great, but I have to do it again at champs."

Senior thrower Ryan Lino took third in the shot put event with a toss of 13.81 meters. Sophomore Rob Martin and junior Ross Bittman took third and fourth respectively in the 400-meter. Martin and Bittman both ran season bests, Martin in the 400 with 50.49 and Bittman at another point in the 200 with 23.10.

Freshman Robert Ferris placed ninth in the mile with an impressive 4:26.87. Ferris ran the fastest mile by any Hopkins runner this year and beat his previous best by six seconds on the dot. The men's team will look to continue their success when they return to action on Feb. 26th at the Centennial Conference Championships in Haverford, Penn.

The Lady Jays complimented the men's squad well as they totaled 78 team points and took fourth place in the NYU Team Challenge. In the process, the

women's team broke a couple of season bests.

Senior Anita Mikkilineni had yet another strong performance this season in the 60-meter hurdles. She took third in the event, tying her mark of 9.53, which broke her own school record set last week in the BU Valentine Invitational.

Sophomore Annie Monagle also stepped up for the Jays, winning the 800-meter with a season best time of 2:16.28. Monagle now owns the three fastest 800 times of the indoor track season for Hopkins.

Senior Elizabeth Laseter placed seventh in the 800 with a time of 2:23.09. Junior Alison Smith also had an impressive season best time this weekend in the 200-meter with a 26.23.

Freshman Meghan Byrnes ran a Hopkins season best time of 3:12.94 in the 1000-meter, beating the next best Blue Jay time of the season by six seconds.

With the runners shining in their events, the throwers wanted to leave their mark as well. Freshman Emily Swenson did just that with her best throw of the season, 11.54 meters, to put her in second.

The 4x200 relay team clicked this weekend as well. Featuring Smith, Mikkilineni, sophomore Leah Sibener, and freshman Chloe Ryan, the relay squad set a team low of 1:48.28 and placed second.

This assured them a high seed in next weekend's conference championships.

Hopkins's solid afternoon only got better. Two freshmen also recorded season bests in the 60-meter dash. Ryan took eighth with a

time of 8.42 while freshman Alex is Johnson finished right behind her in 8.43.

In the 3000, freshman Holly Clarke topped her season best by nine seconds with a time of



FILE PHOTO

Women's hurdling was part of a record breaking day in New York.

10:37.63. In her first mile of the season, freshman Lara Shegoski took fifth.

Sophomore jumper Emily Lavell, better known by her teammates as the "Westmont Wildcat," didn't hold back when expressing her excitement for the upcoming Centennial Conference Championships.

"It really helps when the entire team — both girls and guys — have each other's backs every single event, every single meet," Lavell said.

"Track is no different than basketball or football; there comes a disadvantage of being on the road. But we've done a great job making it fun and pushing each other for success."

With the pinnacle of the season about to start, Lavell predicts yet another good Blue Jay event to come.

"We're going to turn a lot of heads this weekend. We know how hard we've worked in the season and pre-season, and we hope it all will culminate on Saturday. We are all excited to see what we can do against some of the better competition in our conference."



FILE PHOTO

Lady Jay swimming took home the Bluegrass Mountain conference crown last week.

Swimming takes first  
and second in conferenceBy AMY KLIVANS  
Staff Writer

The Hopkins swim teams went one-two at the Bluegrass Mountain Championship, with the girls at the top of the podium and the men's team winning silver. After this past weekend in Charlotte, NC, the fifth ranked women's team maintained their ranking while the men dropped a spot from fourth to fifth in the nation.

Next up for the Blue Jays is the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Championship, held in Knoxville, Tenn. from March 23-26, a week later than usual.

Kenyon College has won the men's championship for 30 straight years now, last losing in 1979 during the Blue Jays three-year championship run.

On the women's side, Emory University and Kenyon have switched off winning gold for the last few years, with a 17-year winning streak for Kenyon previous to this.

The women won their conference with 796.5 points, shattering records and winning medals. This included freshman Sarah Rinsma who won the Bluegrass Swimmer of the Meet by way of six gold medals. In addition, head coach George Kennedy won Women's Coach of the Year for the first time since 2008 after securing his fourth Bluegrass title.

In the first event of the meet, senior Kathleen Heslin placed second in the 1000 free with the second fastest time in school history and a personal record.

Heslin, however, was quick to recognize the team's achievement before her own.

"Last year, our team did not do as well as we all would have liked to, [so] it was great that we were all able to bounce back and start swimming fast again," she said.

The Jays also swam a record-breaking 800 free relay featuring junior Elizabeth Rogers, sophomore Daniela Villegas, freshman Alex Ladd, and Rinsma in 7:34.63, breaking meet and school records by 2.56 and 1.42 seconds, respectively.

More records fell in the next few days as well, as the other teams continued to eat the Blue Jays' bubbles. Four school records were broken on day two, including Rinsma's 500 free, the 200 free relay, and gold in the 400 medal relay.

Kathleen Heslin was at it again as well, taking third in the 1650 free with a time of 17:25.42, a personal best.

"It feels great to get a best time in the 1650! All season, we work so hard and it all comes down to one weekend, so I was really nervous before my race. I knew that I was prepared to swim fast, so it was great to see the hard work pay off in the end," she said.

Sophomore Cathy Howard finished close behind with 17:41.14.

Heslin's sister, fellow senior Meagan Heslin, set a school record in the 200 fly later on in the meet.

"I think we have enough girls going to the [championship] meet that we might even be able to place in the top five," said Kathleen. "Both teams are looking great and I'm really excited to see how well everyone will swim in a few weeks."

The men's team placed second with 647.5 points, with host Wingate winning its fourth consecutive title in a landslide 732.5-point outing. The Blue were content with their placement, however, realizing how competitive their conference is.

"We are very happy with our second place at our conference championship," said sophomore Carter Gisriel. "Our conference is composed of mostly Division II teams, and Wingate, the one school we lost to, is a Division II powerhouse [currently ranked 10th]."

The most impressive performance of the four-day meet was from sophomore Nick Schmidt who bronzed in both the 100 fly and 200 fly along with helping win the 800 free relay, with a career best of 1:52.04 in the 200 fly and his leg of the relay.

"I feel great about achieving bronze in those two events as they were both career best times," Schmidt said. "We had a lot of great swims and a lot of best times at this meet and that is just going to start the ball rolling."

On the first day of competition, the Jays won the 800 free relay with Schmidt, junior Stephen Niemiec, freshmen Joe Acquaviva and Anthony Lordi combining for 6:43.56, the third fastest time in school history.

Day two had the Jays securing silver in the 200 medley relay with sophomore Dylan Coggin, senior Chris Razavi, Gisriel, and freshman Will Kimball in 1:32.16.

Freshman Mike Leddy then placed sixth in the 1650 free with 16:19.65, another personal best.

In the 100 free, sophomore Tyler Woods had the best showing of four Jays who placed in the top 11, placing just out of the winner's circle with a fourth place showing of 45.80, an NCAA B time.

Fellow sophomore Gisriel finished in 46.58 to finish just after Woods.

"This meet was a huge success for the men's team," Gisriel said. "Personally, I swam all lifetime best times and competed on four out of the five relays. It was an awesome feeling knowing that I was helping my team score a considerable number of points to capture the silver medal. To me, it's really exciting that only four other relay teams in Hopkins history have ever swam faster than what we did on Saturday night."

Schmidt, who was in the running for a silver medal all night, could not have been prouder of his team's performance.

"We went out there and performed, and it showed," he said. "The men's team had a stellar meet, and that's just the beginning. We have a great group of guys that are just going to keep getting faster and faster. As the team always says, 'You know the rules,' and we did and we had a great meet."

Junior Tim Nam, who's a veteran swimmer at the NCAA Championships, took fourth in the 200 breast with 2:06.59 with freshman Alex Polyak right after in 2:07.53.

The final medal for Hopkins that day came in the 400 free relay where Gisriel, Woods, Coggin, and standout Lordi swam 3:03.13, the fifth fastest time in Hopkins's history and an NCAA B time.

Going into the Championships in Texas in a month, Schmidt feels very confident in the Jays' abilities.

"We had twice the number of guys qualify for NCAAAs this year than the year before and I would say to expect the unexpected," he said.

Gisriel echoed Schmidt's sentiments. "As of right now, about 12 guys are going to Nationals, which is the biggest number in a while."

Hopkins is sure to perform well in the spotlight on the national stage.



# SPORTS

## Did You Know?

Senior Lyndsay Burton and Coach Nancy Funk of women's basketball were named Centennial Conference Player of the Year and Centennial Conference Coach of the Year this week.

## CALENDAR

**SATURDAY**  
Women's Basketball vs. TBD, 3 p.m.  
M. Lacrosse vs. Siena, 1 p.m.

**TUESDAY**  
Baseball vs. Alvernia, 3 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Baseball vs. York, 3 p.m.

## Men's Lacrosse sets the tone with two wins

By **SAM GLASSMAN**  
Staff Writer

The Blue Jays's men's lacrosse team produced no surprises this weekend, as they handily beat Delaware this Tuesday, and fought for a well-earned victory against Towson this past Saturday.

The two games, both away, started in a very similar manner. At Delaware, ninth-ranked Hopkins scored the first three goals of the game, and nine of the first 10 goals.

The first goal was scored just 43 seconds into the first quarter as freshman Rob Guida notched his first career goal.

This was almost a mirror performance of the Towson game where senior co-captain Kyle Wharton put a goal on the scoreboard 25 seconds into the game. But, from here, the two games diverge.

Hopkins maintained its lead against Delaware, making it 6-1 at halftime, pushing the lead to 14-3 by the end of the third quarter and ending the game 18-5.

The Towson game, despite its promising beginnings, was much more of a challenge for the Jays.

After sophomore Zach Palmer scored an unassisted goal four minutes and 55 seconds into the first quarter to make it 2-0, it appeared that Hopkins was ready to dominate.

Towson sophomore midfielder Matt Thomas had other thoughts, however, as he answered just seven seconds later, scoring Towson's first goal of the game.

Thomas's goal was a momentum shifter, setting the tone for Towson's offense to tie the score at three by the end of the first quarter. At the close of the first quarter, Towson had nine shots to Hopkins's six, and the Tigers

had won four out of seven face-offs.

The second quarter offered no new material for either side. Towson continued to dominate possession, but had just three shots on goal, a third of their first quarter chances, and all except one posed little threat to the unyielding Hopkins defense.

Sophomore goalie Pierce Bassett was not forced to make a single save and was scored on once with 10:30 left in the half. Towson had a lead, but only maintained it for 1:27 seconds, relinquishing the tying goal at 9:03.

The score was held at 4-4 until the second half, with much of the possession going to Towson, and the majority of the offensive opportunities going to the Hopkins veterans on the attacking line.

Head coach Dave Pietramala observed that the team "showed [its] youth at the end of the game," an assertion which rang true in the two remaining quarters.

He continued, saying "Towson did a good job of holding the ball," but as far as offensive production went, Hopkins capitalized far more.

In the third period, Hopkins began to pull away from the Tigers, putting four more goals on the board, at the 7:46, 6:38, 3:35 and 3:09 marks.

By the end of the third period, Wharton had three goals, Palmer accounted for two goals, and senior Chris Boland, freshman Eric Ruhl and sophomore Lee Coppersmith all had one goal apiece.

In the final quarter of the game, Chris Boland scored for the Jays with 8:22 left, increasing the lead to 9-4.

Towson's Pat Britton scored shortly after at the 5:08 mark, and Hopkins freshman Brandon

## W. Lacrosse starts season with two dominating victories



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Colleen McCaffrey was part of Hopkins' forceful attack that started the season 2-0 with convincing wins over George Mason and Mt. St. Mary's. McCaffrey has five goals on nine shots and four assists after two games. See Page B10 for full coverage.

Benn responded with his first career goal at 4:35.

Towson scored one final consolation goal with 3:38 left in the game, which ended 10-6 in favor of the Jays.

After the game, Wharton and Pietramala explained the reason behind Hopkins's 35 total shots, ten of which forced Tiger goalie Travis Love to make a save, and another ten of which shook the back of the net.

"Me having open shots is just a testament to our offense," Wharton said.

Pietramala agreed in a separate statement, admitting that despite needing "more from the midfield" the team ended up "running [a] good offense" for the majority of the game.

SEE M. LACROSSE, PAGE B11

## Strong finish for men's basketball

By **JARED FRYDMAN**  
Staff Writer

In the final game of the regular season the men's basketball team hosted Washington College Saturday afternoon at Goldfarb Gymnasium. The Blue Jays downed the Shoremen 74-64, closing out the season 7-18 overall and 5-13 in the Centennial Conference.

The Jays jump-started the game and established an early 4-0 lead. Hopkins held the lead until just 10 minutes were left in the first half, when the Shoremen tied the game at 13.

The lead changed sides twice before the end of the half, but shortly before the teams headed to their locker rooms, Hopkins sparked a ten-point run to conclude the half with a seven-point lead.

Senior John Alberici had his way with Washington College and led the offensive attack. Alberici's 12 first half points came as no surprise; he was playing his last game as a Jay and wanted to leave his mark. Alberici did not hesitate to get his teammates involved in the mix, dishing off multiple assists while running up and down the floor.

He also showed off an array of post moves, missing only two shots and shooting an impressive 12-14 from the field.

Adding 17 second half points to his total, Alberici proved he was too much for the Shoremen to handle; he finished the game with a career high in points and assists, compiling 29 points and 12 assists.

Head Coach Bill Nelson commented on his seniors' final game, "It was nice to see John Alberici get career highs in points scored and rebounds in his last game."

Going 12-14 from the field vaulted him up to [18th] for career field goal percentage. Mike Henrici, who missed the majority of the last third of the season with a painful foot injury ended up [second] career-wise for free throw percentage."

Nelson also added that the seniors deserve a ton of credit despite the season not going according to plan.

"We all will miss the seniors a great deal. They are quality young men both on and off the court. We all were disappointed in our final record and it was especially tough on the seniors. But they deserve a tremendous amount of credit for holding this team together. We actually got better during the final quarter of the season and John and Mike had a lot to do with it."

Washington entered the second half with a higher intensity level, bringing the game to a close with two points before finally taking the lead.

Alberici sunk a free throw to retake the lead 48-47 with 11 minutes to go in the half. After grabbing the lead Hopkins would not look back, lighting up the field and extending the lead until time expired.

The decisive point of the game occurred with seven minutes left, Hopkins leading by just four points. The Jays scored eight consecutive points to lead 67-55 with only three minutes to play.

Hitting shots from around the field, the Jays were not limited by a poor shooting effort; the team shot an astounding 52 percent from the field in the second half, compared to a 37.5 field goal percentage from Washington.

Hopkins sophomore Adam Spengler had a strong performance from the free throw line to close out the game. He tallied 12 points on the day along with four assists and three steals. Freshman Daniel Corbett continued his impressive play, adding seven boards and six assists

in the win.

Nelson was proud of the way his young players performed throughout the season.

"Many of our sophomores and freshmen were thrown to the wolves and some responded especially well. Adam Spengler more than doubled his freshman offensive statistics and Daniel Corbett and Connor McIntyre were both starting and showing tremendous improvement as the season came to an end," he said.

When recalling the bright spots of the season, Nelson replied "We had some real gut victories this year. The most memorable was versus Messiah where we were down nine points with 71 seconds to go. We tied them in regulation and beat them in overtime. We also had nice wins over playoff-bound McDaniel and Gettysburg in February."

The Jays know they must build off this season to be successful in the future.

"Without a doubt, we must improve in three areas. Offensively we were dead last in most categories in the conference. We must improve our post defense.

Our perimeter defense became much stronger as the year went on but we never improved much in the post. Finally, we had too many turnovers against the best teams in the conference," Nelson said.

Overall the team seems eager looking forward to next year. Two seniors are graduating, leaving behind a confident nucleus of players who can mesh together.

Nelson concluded by saying, "When you are 7-18, things need to change. We can't stay the same or else we will get the same results."

**We were down  
nine points with  
71 seconds to go.  
We tied [Messiah] in  
regulation and beat  
them in overtime.**

**—BILL NELSON,  
MEN'S BASKETBALL  
HEAD COACH**

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## INSIDE

**Swimming: Conference  
Championships**

The Women's and Men's Swim Teams both performed well this weekend, taking first and second place in their respective divisions.

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**Athlete of the Week:  
John Alberici**

Senior basketball player John Alberici has been an anchor for a young Blue Jay squad. He concluded his season this week with a 29-pt, 12 assist game.

Page B11

**MLB Outlook:  
Kanen is Ignorant**

The odds that this sports editor can call this year's MLB season is slim to none. Join him and read in awe as you discover his deluded ideas.

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